Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

First Week of Peace Talks Conclude; Officials Comment

'Abd-al-Shafi on Talks

TA3004144493 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Apr 93 p 17

[Interview with chief Palestinian delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi by Dan Avidan in Washington; date not given]

[Text] [Avidan] Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, what is your opinion of Israel's agreement to return 30 old-time deportees to the territories?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I had nothing to do with that. I only know that the list of 30 returnees was given to the Palestinians already in Jerusalem.

[Avidan] Are you demanding that Israel make additional gestures?

['Abd-al-Shafi] My position is that Israel has no right to deport anyone from the territories. We call on Israel to pledge to deport no more and to return all the deportees. Israel is refusing to assume such a commitment. It is challenging international law, but this is its own business.

[Avidan] What more do you want Israel to do for the sake of negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] If it wants the negotiations to be reliable, it must respect the basis of the negotiations, and mainly UN Resolution 242. This means: Israel should stop the settlements and all types of infrastructure work in the territories, and show willingness to withdraw from them in the framework of a peace agreement. Setting up settlements is a clear violation of the ground rules of the negotiations, because in doing so Israel is predetermining the nature of the permanent arrangement.

[Avidan] Are there disagreements and brawls between you and al-Husayni?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is not true, it is pure propaganda. We are friends and have good contacts. Faysal is involved in the issue of the deportees, which is external to the negotiations and, as I said before, I am not involved in this. He handles the contacts with the Americans and Israelis.

[Avidan] Would it be true if I said that al-Husayni is more pragmatic than you are?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Maybe, but I reject the claim that I am inflexible. I am firm regarding principles, but I try to keep an open mind to things we are being offered. I do not know if this can be called pragmatism.

[Avidan] Do you accept the claim that the negotiations have gained momentum ever since al-Husayni joined the Palestinian delegation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is not true. The atmosphere in the negotiations held on 27 April was not different from the preceding rounds of talks.

[Avidan] You were practically forced by the PLO leadership to return to the negotiations. You have threatened to quit if Israel does not respond favorably to the Palestinian demands. What is your current stand?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I still intend to quit if Israel does not accept our demands; and they have not yet been accepted. We have been through eight rounds of talks and achieved nothing. The time has come to address this situation. If Israel refuses to endorse the mandate of the negotiations, it would mean that we will reach a deadlock, and we are no longer willing to waste time. Although I openly declared my opposition, I came to the negotiations in a supreme effort to see whether Israel will do something to advance the negotiations. This will be a test of Israel's intentions.

[Avidan] What needs to happen in the talks to prevent you from quitting?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I want Israel to stop constructing settlements and infrastructure in the territories because this contradicts the negotiations' ground rules. We are now trying to obtain an Israeli commitment to stop settling in the territories, but I feel that Israel does not tend to accept our request. I will wait and see how the United States addresses this situation and I will make my decision on whether to stay or quit in view of this. I would not like to set a deadline for my decision. The most important thing is that Israel stop the settlement drive. Also, Israel must implement the Geneva Convention in the territories and respect Palestinian human rights. At present, it is violating those rights through acts of oppression and brutality such as the acitivities of the undercover units, the demolition of dozens of houses, and the use of excessive force against the residents. Such steps harm the credibility of the negotiations.

Also, there is the question of the return of the 400 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. Israel must return them before June, and pledge that it will not deport people anymore. This was one of the conditions we presented before resuming the negotiations, but the more important matter is stopping the settlements, mainly in the area of Jerusalem.

[Avidan] Was 'Arafat right when he ordered your to return to the talks?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I would not like to pass judgment on 'Arafat's decision. My position was that we should not return to the talks, but I decided to respect the decision of the leadership.

[Avidan] Does public opinion pressures dictate your stands?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I definitely take the feelings of the people into consideration, but I have my own views of the situation. If my conclusion is different from the feeling

of the masses, I try to convince them that I am correct. That is, although I consider the public opinion, it does not dictate my acts. At the same time, I take it into serious consideration, and am very careful to hold meetings with the people because it is very important.

[Avidan] Will you agree to hold continuous negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It depends on the manner in which the talks are conducted. If no progress is made, there will be no point in continuing them. On the other hand, if there is a breakthrough, I would not object to holding continuous discussions.

[Avidan] How do you view the current round of talks?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is a decisive round. I have no reason to be optimistic, but I hope the peace process does not fail.

[Avidan] In the meeting Secretary of State Christopher held with the heads of the Israeli and Arab delegations, your said that if Israel provides credibility to the negotiations, the Palestinians would adopt more flexible political positions. What did you mean?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I primarily meant stopping the settlements and lifting the closure off the territories, but this is a secondary issue. The best way to come out of the cycle of violence would be to stop settlement plans. This would have a far-reaching effect on the residents of the territories, and will allow us to moderate our policies. If this happens, it will not be difficult to reach an agreement regarding the authorities of the autonomy council and the nature of the self government.

[Avidan] Do you favor holding early elections in the territories, as Foreign Minister Peres has offered?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I support Peres' offer. We demanded a long time ago that elections be held in the territories, through which we could establish the self-government offices. But first, settlements must stop. There is no point in holding elections otherwise. We would like the United States to play a more substantive role in the negotiations, and I said this to Warren Christopher when we met. Massive U.S. involvement is required to promote the talks.

Diaspora Delegates Included in Process

TA3004175993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Report by Israeli Television correspondent Shlomo Ganor from Washington on 29 April session of Israeli-Palestinian talks; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Good evening, a turning point in the Israeli-Palestinian talks. This is the unanimous view of observers here in Washington over Israel's decision to approve the inclusion of Palestinian experts from the diaspora into the peace process. [passage omitted]

The head of the Palestinian delegation made the following announcement to newsmen:

[Begin recording] [Palestinian delegation head 'Abd-al-Shafi] We agreed to form working groups to explore further and give the Israeli side another opportunity so that we may emerge from the negotiating impasse. These working groups are three: The first relates to the issue of land and water, the second pertains to the concept of the transitional period and relevant issues, and the third concerns human rights issues and Israel's practices in the occupied territories. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The two Palestinian experts are: Professor Ahmad al-Khalidi from Oxford University, who is standing to the right of Dr. 'Abd-al- Shafi, and Dr. Kamil Mansur, expert on water and land at the Paris Sorbonne University. [passage omitted]

Some members of the Palestinian delegation commented on this development and its impact on the course of negotiations.

[Begin recording] [Palestinian delegation member Mamduh al- 'Akir] I believe that this is very important progress. As far as we Palestinians are concerned, we are sitting in front of the Israeli delegation as a united people, inside and outside, in the diaspora and under occupation. This will demonstrate to the Israelis that the more they deal with us in the talks and deal with the Palestinian issue as a single unit, as a people under occupation and as a people in the diaspora, the more this will contribute to progress toward a just and lasting peace. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Palestinian delegation member Su'ad al-'Amiri] I believe that this a positive act by the Israeli side. I think that the Israelis have come to realize that dealing with the Palestinian people as a people is the shortest way to reaching a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli problem. [end recording]

The first and real test of the parties' seriousness will take place next Monday at the start of the second week of negotiations.

Rubinstein: Diaspora Not Members

TA3004201593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation for talks with the Palestinians, says that already five months ago Israel agreed to the participation of Palestinian experts who live abroad in the work groups of the peace talks. At the time the Palestinians said they want to bring various experts to the discussions held in the framework of the work groups, and Israel acquiesced to this request. Rubinstein emphasized to our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan that the experts will not be members of the Palestinian delegation and will not participate in the plenum sessions, and that their function will be limited to that of advisers. Rubinstein added

that if the Palestinian delegation is interested in presenting this issue to its public as an achievement then let it do so, as he put it.

Mr. Rubinstein told our correspondent that at the time Israel objected to the participation of the attorney Shihadah from East Jerusalem as an adviser to the Palestinian delegation, because this could have been presented as a nationalistic symbol relating to the status of Jerusalem.

Palestinian, Israeli Delegations on Talks

TA3004192393

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1730 GMT on 30 April, in its weekly Mabat newsreel, airs a report by Washington-based correspondent Ya'ir Stern summing up the first week of the peace talks with the Palestinians in Washington. Stern remarks that progress has been achieved along the Palestinian track following "the decision to establish three joint work groups which will deal with the following issues: First, the concept of self government; second, water and land; third, the human rights situation in the territories." Stern notes that this progress was made possible after the Palestinians were summoned by the U.S. peace team to the State Department, where they were encouraged to move on to substantial issues.

Stern reports that two of the three working groups convened yesterday. Speaking in English, he then asks Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, member of the Palestinian delegation, how crucial is the work of these groups to the peace process. Al-'Akir answers in English: "Indeed, it's quite crucial, because the whole negotiation is dependent mainly on the territorial aspect, the land aspect of the negotiations, so this is one issue. And then the concept of the transfer of authority to the Palestinian interim self-government, and thirdly the human rights issue, the situation of our people under occupation. So what we are going to hear from the Israeli side and what changes they have in their position in comparison with the position they presented to us last November or December, I believe then the whole outcome of this round is going to be decided."

Commenting on yesterday's proceedings, Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation for talks with the Palestinians says: "Obviously I cannot speak for them, but I believe that they have realized that in order to reach results the negotiations must be pursued. We are all cognizant of the problems in the process, we are all aware of the problems. There are problems and difficulties on both sides, but there is no other way. I believe that this is the answer."

Stern goes on to comment on the appointment of two Palestinian diaspora representatives to the Palestinian delegation, namely Dr. Kamil Mansur, a water expert from the Sorbonne, and Dr. Ahmad al- Khalidi, an international affairs expert from Oxford University. Stern remarks that "the Palestinians presented the inclusion of the diaspora representatives as a great achievement." Israel, on the other hand, downplayed this development, saying that this does not constitute anything new. In the words of Yoni Gal, spokesman of the Israeli delegation: "We are not dealing here with the inclusion of new members to the delegation, because they do not participate in the plenum sessions. Their inclusion does not constitute an infringement of any agreement or framework which relates to the negotiations. If the Palestinians present the inclusion of the two experts as a great achievement, this in itself constitutes progress by virtue of presenting the developments in the negotiations in a positive light."

Sterns remarks that Israel has already offered the Palestinians responsibility for various areas of life in the territories. Commenting on this issue, Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories and member of the Israeli delegation, says: "Our proposal encourages the Palestinians to manage broad areas of life, and this applies to management, authority, and control over the budgets which we allot for these purposes. We want the Palestinians to tell us what they want from us in this sphere and to show their public that they can bring about a quick change. This is the logic behind our offer. I think it is an excellent offer, because for the first time it enables the Palestinian delegation to show each and every inhabitant of the territories that quick change in the territories is possible."

Stern next turns to an interview with Faysal al-Husayni, the newly appointed head of the Palestinian delegation. Speaking in English, Stern asks: "Mr. Husayni, how could you persuade the Israeli public that after so much bloodshed, after so much violence, you are really interested in a genuine peace agreement?", to which al-Husayni offers the following reply, also in English: "I believe that usually everywhere where there are wars, where there are difficulties, where there are clashes, unfortunately the one who is paying the highest price is the citizen, the simple one, who is paying all of these things. We are entering a new period in which the zero sum game is over. We no longer believe, like before, that everything you lose, I gain, and everything I lose, you gain. No, I believe that there are a lot of things that we can lose together and we can gain together. So let us work on it, let us look to the future, put the past behind us. I am not saying that everything will go smoothly. There will be some implementation here, some implementation there. Someone will come with a certain step which will make the Israelis so angry. The Israelis will carry out a certain step which will make us furious, but in the end we must know that there is no way but to go and solve this problem by peaceful ways."

Stern ends his report by noting that the peace talks will resume next Monday [3 April], adding that "the establishment of the work groups with the Palestinians could facilitate the entire process, and undoubtedly the negotiations with Jordan will enter a new phase. It is possible that this issue could also have a positive affect on the talks with Syria and Lebanon."

'Ashrawi Cites Progress

JN0105064293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks, has stated that the peace process has, at last, started to show signs that it could advance and achieve results.

In statements to the press in Washington last night, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the stage of actual negotiations has started, emphasizing that the current negotiations could enter a different stage, a stage where there will be a qualitative change in terms of deeds and not form. She said that the Palestinians will do all they can to assist and give a positive reply.

The Palestinian delegation's spokeswoman said the United States is playing a more active role in the talks and has promised that in the session scheduled for next Monday it will provide the Palestinians with information about the development of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Syria's al-'Allaf on U.S. Role

JN0105065793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the Middle East peace talks, has affirmed that Syria is serious in its search for a just, comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of returning Arab territory in return for peace. In an interview with Radio Canada International last night, al-'Allaf said that Israel continues to reject commitment to the peace process and seeks to obstruct it. He added that Syria believes that any separate solution will not lead to real peace. He said that since the Madrid conference, the Arab parties have proved readiness for peace and that they do not sit there doing nothing but are demanding their rights. At the same time, they accept all the obligations that are dictated in accordance with the bases of the peace process, particularly Resolution 242. Meanwhile, he continued, Israel only verbally claims that it accepts Resolutions 242 and 338. When it comes to application, Israel rejects a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, he maintained.

Regarding the new U.S. role as a full partner in the talks, al-'Allaf said: During the current round of talks, we have noticed that there is greater activity by the U.S. sponsor, who is holding daily contacts with the delegations, exchanging information, and following up what is taking place. He added that the real criterion for the role of the U.S. sponsor is how he will react to Israel's continued failure to comply with the resolutions on which the peace process is based. Then, the U.S. sponsor should play its part as an honest broker and a full partner.

Cancellation of Demolitions Promised

TA0105184593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] The heads of the Palestinian delegation in Washington say they have received a promise from Israel that it will cancel several demolition orders on buildings in the territories and that it will approve retroactively the building of approximately 10,000 houses that were built without licenses.

Two of the delegation's heads, Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Sami al-Kilani, met with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis today. In the middle of next week the heads of the Arab delegations will convene in order to decide whether to end the present round of talks on 6 May or to pursue them beyond this date.

Israeli Settlements Information Promised

JN0205063793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has said that the United States will provide information to the Palestinians on Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

In a meeting with journalists last night, Dr. 'Ashrawi added that the Palestinian delegation had obtained a U.S. promise to share information with the Palestinians on the Israeli settlements. She asserted that the Palestinian delegation will ask experts to obtain the information from the Americans on this issue. 'Ashrawi added that the Israelis had agreed to the disclosure of such information.

'Ashrawi on First Week of Talks

NC0205074293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 2 May 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israel peace talks, in Washington, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, can you tell us what was achieved during the first week of the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington?

['Ashrawi] There are several levels and tracks of work. Regarding Palestinian-U.S. coordination and strengthening the effective role of the sponsor state in its capacity as a full partner, we have reached a kind of preliminary understanding on cooperation and mechanism of work, including intervention to solve some outstanding and difficult issues. There is a U.S. role regarding giving us some required information about Israeli settlement activity.

Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian track, the Israeli side has submitted ideas on various issues, including human

rights or what it calls the reality on the ground. Another issue deals with the substance of the talks. A third issue deals with the early taking over of power. The Palestinian side has agreed to form official working groups. The first group will deal with human rights on the sidelines of the talks. The second group will deal with the concept of the interim period, including the terms of reference, the structure, and jurisdiction of the interim self-government. The third group will deal with territory, water, and settlement activity. The working groups have not started working on the substance. At their first meeting, they focused on procedural issues to separate and identify these issues.

Regarding human rights, we are talking about essential issues, like returning the deportees since 1967. Agreement was reached on returning 30 deportees. We are working on returning others. There is also the issue of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees [Hamas deportees stranded in southern Lebanon]. We are working to accelerate their return. In the next few days we will learn how their return can be accelerated. There are other issues, like granting building licenses and not demolishing houses. We have obtained 10,000 licenses retroactively effective for houses slated for demolition. We have also obtained approval to give identity cards to Palestinian wives and children living in the occupied territories who do not have residence permits. There are also economic issues. We are still working for the release of detainees and lifting the siege on the occupied territories and Jerusalem.

There is constant dispute over essential issues. These issue deal with Jerusalem, territory, and settlement activity. However, there was an initial Israeli readiness to discuss them, especially the issue of the land.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Through the ideas submitted to you by the Israeli side, do you feel there is a response from the Israeli side?

['Ashrawi] It is premature to identify the work as response or readiness to work seriously. We always tell them that the real test is based on practice and content and not on mere statements or promises. We are still working. These committees were formed only 2 days ago. They will start their work seriously on Monday. However, there is progress regarding the working groups and the inclusion of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories as experts in these working groups, in addition to the participation of Faysal al-Husayni from Jerusalem. This represents a change in the Israeli treatment of the Palestinian negotiators and in the nature of the Palestinian participation.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Ashrawi, is Israel's decision to approve the inclusion of some Palestinian negotiators from outside the occupied territories in the Palestinian delegation and the decision to allow 30 deportees to return to their homes in the occupied territories considered an Israeli move toward peace?

['Ashrawi] In itself or in a vacuum, this cannot be considered an integral or positive factor, but it is a preliminary indicator regarding the approach to peace. It is a preliminary indicator regarding a change in attitude. In the past we have noticed Israeli intransigence and total rejection regarding these issues. And now, as a result of consistent efforts—in my opinion, the past months were decisive with regard to analyzing and diagnosing the defects in the process in order to deal with them. [sentence as heard] These, as I have said, are positive indications that can be built upon to make them more comprehensive. It is necessary not to deal with these indications in a total vacuum. If such indications continue, they might develop into realistic dealings with the Palestinian issue and Palestinian demands. This means that Israel should not make unfair conditions or attempt to influence the negotiations through pressure and the use of force and hegemony.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Is this despite the demand by the head of the Israeli delegation that the Arab delegations must not insist on total peace in return for total withdrawal and his call for a new formula, which is peace in return for withdrawal?

['Ashrawi] This formula is being discussed on the Syrian-Israeli track. We abide by the principles and basis agreed upon when this process began. These are: the principle of land for peace on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the Palestinian political rights. The principle of withdrawal should be based on Resolution 242, given that the Palestinian solution will take place in two stages. But this does not mean that Resolution 242 does not apply to the two stages. The two stages should be linked in a way that will not affect the final implementation of Resolution 242—that is withdrawal.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Ashrawi, before we end this dialogue, what is the general impression regarding the beginning of the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations on the various tracks?

['Ashrawi] There are differences in the various tracks, of course. The defect in the Palestinian-Israeli track was obvious, as Israel is dealing with us from a position of strength, and this is considered [words indistinct] to the sponsor country for a neutral role. Regarding the other tracks, there were no crucial issues, outstanding problems, or obstacles. The defect was in the Palestinian-Israeli track, particularly in light of Israel's actions. We have said that this round is decisive with regard to testing Israeli promises and good intentions. If progress is made in this round, it will give a new push to the negotiating process. Otherwise, the entire process will be threatened with collapse. There are some stumbling blocks on the Syrian track. But in my opinion, we must not be hasty in making a judgment on the process now. This is just the beginning of a new stage in which we hope Israel will translate its commitment to the principles and requirements of this process, not only in words but in deeds.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What about the U.S. role, considering that the U.S. Administration has promised to make efforts to push the peace process forward and overcome the obstacles facing it?

['Ashrawi] There is a change. We have noticed some change in the U.S. role and in the U.S. dealings with the parties. First, the United States is closely following up the negotiations. There is also, let us say, parallel negotiations with the United States as a sponsor state and a full partner. This means the United States is dealing with the vital issues and making efforts to prompt the sides to abide by the basis of the negotiations. The United States can also do something with regard to bilateral relations. There has been development in this regard and we are still exploring it.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Ashrawi, thank you very much, and we always welcome you on the air waves of the Voice of the Arabs.

'Ashrawi on Israeli Moves

JN0305080493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 May 93

[Interview with Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi by Sa'id Mu'addi; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, good evening.

['Ashrawi] Good evening to you.

[Mu'addi] Judging by how the current round of the bilateral talks has been going, one can say that the Palestinian decision to join the talks was both well-advised and worthwhile. Do you agree?

['Ashrawi] It is too early to tell one way or the other. The decision to attend was based on a host of facts; it may be said that this round may produce results different from its predecessors. However, there is a readiness to take a serious approach to the bases on which the process was launched and to its terms of reference, as well as on the negotiating stands, in addition to the receptiveness to real issues regarding Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

[Mu'addi] In which areas one may say that progress has been made?

['Ashrawi] It is fair to say that procedural rather than substantive progress has been made. Working groups were formed to address these issues, including one on land and water and another on the terms of reference. These are still defining the items and the terms by way of laying the groundwork for a discussion of these issues. There is also the human rights working group, or the situation on the ground. This last group will devise ways to remove the obstacles created by Israeli practices, that is to say creating the right atmosphere and establishing good faith. In these two areas, it is possible to say that there is a readiness to discuss issues of substance. We know that this is a first step and a beginning. It may be fair to say that this is the start of true and tough negotiations.

[Mu'addi] According to news reports an agreement has been reached on the Jerusalem population participating in self-rule elections. Can you elaborate on this understanding?

['Ashrawi] We have not reached any understanding. Proposals have been made on both sides. We are realists and realize that contentious issues remain, including Jerusalem and the settlements. However, there are various proposals to break the impasse that has persisted from the beginning of the negotiations. It is important that we keep Jerusalem on the agenda, that the root of the Jeursalem issue be tackled, and that practical areas related to Jerusalem be addressed.

[Mu'addi] Has the Israeli delegation informed the Palestinian side of the measures the government will take regarding the [house] demolition orders and family reunification?

['Ashrawi] Yes. We have been informed about a number of measures Israel will take, especially as regards the issuing of ID's for spouses and children of those who already have ID's. We are talking about something like 5,000 persons. The mesures also affect homes that had not obtained building permits and have been threatened with demolition. They will now be issued with retroactive permits. This will help; it will save 10,000 homes from demolition. We are still working tirelessly on other issues. In the coming two days we may learn about expediting the return of the deportees who are stranded at Marj al-Zuhur and about such issues as the siege and closure of the occupied territory.

[Mu'addi] Israel has not consented to your participation in the human rights subcommittee, but did acquiesce to other matters of substance related to elections and the participation of two diaspora representatives in the subcommittees. How do you react?

['Ashrawi, laughing] This is the first time I have heard about this rejection. I do not know what interpretation to put on it, since I have not heard that Israel has objected to my participtipon in the human rights working group. This group does not function within but on the sidelines of the bilateral negotiations, since it has a separate agenda. An issue such as human rights should not be the subject of bargaining and negotiating. The question, though, is not one of individuals. To underscore the issue of Jerusalem through the inclusion of Faysal al-Husayni in the bilateral side of the talks is significant and necessary. Also the inclusion of Palestinians from the diaspora as experts in the working groups has done way with certain Israeli preconditions. As for a single person being included or excluded, this is another matter.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Palestinian spokeswoman, thank you very much.

['Ashrawi] Not at all, you're welcome.

Israeli Team Given List of Lebanese Detainees

NC0305060393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] The ninth round of bilateral peace talks enters its second week today. Slight progress was achieved along the Israeli-Palestinian track during the first week.

Lebanese delegation chairman Ambassador Suhayl Shammas told our radio that the Lebanese delegation gave the Israelis a list of the Lebanese detained in Israeli jails and the prisons in which they are being held. He remarked that Israel has no right to detain these people.

Shammas said the delegation listened seriously to the Israeli demand concerning the Israelis who were missing in Lebanon. He said it is up to the Lebanese authorities to decide on this issue.

Shammas said Lebanon has the right to demand that the peace process be based on an in-depth study of a full Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territories, not only in implementation of Resolution 425, but also because the international family unanimously supports this resolution.

Palestinian Delegates Brief Israeli Media

TA0305063593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 93 p A2

["Exclusive" report by Ori Nir in Washington]

[Text] This week—and perhaps even today—the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to the peace talks will begin examining the possibility of an early transfer of political and administrative authority to Palestinian hands, even before the parties sign the agreement on interim self-government.

The Palestinians have asserted that before any detailed discussion of those aspects of daily life they could take responsibility for is possible, agreement in principle must first be reached on the framework of the interim accord and on the "source of authority." Nevertheless, the Palestinians noted that the Israeli proposals on this issue are encouraging and expressed the belief that it will be possible to also make progress toward an early transfer of authority. This transpired from statements made yesterday by sources in both delegations.

Some of the senior Palestinian delegates held a special news conference yesterday for Israeli correspondents in which they expressed cautious optimism regarding the changes in Israel's positions and predicted progress in this week's talks. Delegation spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi said that, in fact, "the real negotiations will only begin on Monday." Faysal al-Husayni said that he sensed "a new way of dealing," adding: "I believe we are entering a new phase, which can be fruitful."

'Ashrawi said that in addition to the direct negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations on the interim arrangements, which of course constituted the main negotiations at the talks, there were also two other channels of discussion which "could help foster a more positive climate for the success of the process." One such channel was the contacts between the Palestinians and American officials, which are meant to guarantee intensive U.S. involvement in the talks and improve the human rights situation in the territories.

Among other things, 'Ashrawi said, the Palestinians expect the United States to give it information that could help the Palestinian delegation in its negotiations with Israel. This would include information gathered by the United States on settlement activity in the territories. She said that the Palestinians hope to receive this data from the administration at today's meeting between the Palestinian team and U.S. officials.

A second forum of discussion which the Palestinians intend to pursue in parallel to the negotiations on the interim arrangements is the daily meetings with the Israeli representatives to the talks to discuss the dire situation of the residents in the territories. With this in mind, a working group, which is to hold its first official meeting today, was established. It will discuss what Israel defines as "living conditions in the territories" and what the Palestinians describe as "the violations of human rights in the territories."

Al-Husayni: Progress Will Curb Violence

TA0305072493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 May 93

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation, in Washington, by Ya'aqov Eylon and Ya'el Dan on 3 May—recorded in English]

[Text] [Eylon] Good morning, Mr. al-Husayni.

[Al-Husayni] Good morning.

[Eylon] We are hearing some mixed reports here in Israel about progress in the sessions so far, so could you tell us if there was any progress?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that there is an indication that there will be some progress, and I hope that something will happen this week. We started with building up three working groups, and we hope through these working groups that we can reach for a certain understanding.

[Dan] How will the coming back of the deportees influence the talks?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that it gives a better atmosphere for these talks, and it gives us an idea that if this will be a picture of the future, that the Israelis are ready to come with some steps to change things, to correct things, so we are on the right direction.

[Eylon] It seems, Mr. al-Husayni, that Israel has a few steps, like those you are talking about. The question is here, do you have any steps on your side?

[Al-Husayni] Look, first for sure we would like to go ahead. First we are going ahead and negotiations itself. But I would like to tell you that we have a certain different position from Israel. You have your own government, your own Army, your own police, and when you are going to give any order, so this order will reach to every place within minutes and so it will be implemented. For us it is a people who are facing the occupation, so to give an order maybe we can be sure that organizations will commit itself. But for people we are in need of certain time that the people will feel that there is a new atmosphere and that for sure will push for a different attitude from our....

[Eylon, interrupting] So let me ask you differently then, what would you like to see coming from your side towards advancing the negotiations right now?

[Al-Husayni] I believe in these circumstances, in this atmosphere, even our people will start seeing that negotiations can bring something, and if negotiations can bring something maybe the whole peaceful solution can be something practical, and in this case people will start reconsidering a lot of violent acts which was as a response to the occupation. If we will find that we can solve this problem by other means, so I believe our people will start thinking about other means.

[Dan] Mr. al-Husayni, Shim'on Peres said yesterday in the government that he is ready to talk directly with the PLO. How do you react to this claim?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that one of the indications that I was talking about is to deal with things, with the reality as it is. For sure, if such voices will be more available there in the Israeli Government, and if the Israeli Government will start dealing really with the PLO, I believe that this is a very good step forward. If you would like to make business, so deal with the people who are also meaning business, and I believe that the PLO is extremely means business.

[Dan] Is this claim still needed? Aren't we talking with the PLO right now?

[Al-Husayni] Okay, but better say that we must call the baby with its name. The baby is there, but some people are calling him with another name, so let us call the baby with its name.

[Eylon] Last question, Mr. al-Husayni. You are expressing some moderate views this morning here with us. The question is, does everybody else in the delegation see things as you do, namely, Mr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the delegation? Do you really know that he thinks like you?

[Al-Husayni] Look, I believe that all of us are in the same political activity now. We are thinking in the same way, but for sure there will be some arguments here, some arguments there about analyzing things. In the end we have only one position and one decision.

[Eylon] Mr. al-Husayni, good morning and thank you very much.

Islamic Affairs

Syria's al-Shar' on Talks, Arab-Iranian Relations

NC3004184293 London MBC Television in Arabic 1620 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by correspondent Nasir Farghali in Karachi, Pakistan, carried in the "Face to Face" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Farghali] The main issue at present is the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. These negotiations sometimes seem to reach a deadlock and at other times seem to relax. Does this apply to Syria's experience in negotiating with Israel?

[Al-Shar'] Of course it applies to Syria's experience in particular and the Arabs' experience in general. There has been a long conflict between the Arabs and Israel. The Arabs have been the victim of this conflict from the outset. Feuds and absolute pessimism have arisen as a result of the absence of possibilities to solve this conflict peacefully. Eventually, when the United States presented its initiative during former President Bush's term, we found that it was based on international legitimacy and on the Security Council resolutions regarding this conflict, and so we agreed on it. Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's government, as is well known, rejected it. As a matter of fact, it was Syria that opened the door to the Madrid conference.

At our latest meetings in Damascus, we again confronted difficulties and obstacles created by Israel through its deportation of more than 400 Palestinians, its siege on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and its daily or weekly acts of aggression against Lebanese villages. This atmosphere prevailed during the latest meetings in Damascus, and as a result, the meetings were not easy. After lengthy and complicated discussions and intensive contacts, we succeeded in reaching a unified Arab position. This in itself is a major achievement. To realize the importance of this unified Arab position, we should imagine what the result would have been had we failed to reach an agreement. The result would have been negative, or rather, serious not only to the future of the peace process, but also to the overall situation in the region and the Arab position. We seek to enhance Arab solidarity and not to increase rifts and divisions. We are, therefore, satisfied with the latest meetings in Damascus. We have scored an important point in the peace process and once again have demonstrated with tangible evidence our concern for peace, that the Arabs want peace, and that Israel to date has not shown that it wants peace.

[Farghali] Mr. Minister. There is always a clash between the arabism of the negotiations and the bilateralism of the negotiations. What are the scopes and limits of Arab coordination?

[Al-Shar'] We in Syria believe that a comprehensive peace will achieve security and stability in the region. We have experienced in this region that if peace is not comprehensive, then we will not obtain this security and stability. Syria defends the totality [shumuliyat] of the solution. We basically accepted the U.S. initiative because it is based on the totality of the solution. President Clinton emphasized in a recent written message to President Hafiz al-Asad the totality of the solution and the terms of reference of the peace process that are based on the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of land for peace.

[Farghali] In this round of talks, what objectives or results will please the Syrian delegation if it returns with them in its briefcase?

[Al-Shar'] As is known, we are committed to Israel's complete withdrawal. The peace process will make no progress without a complete withdrawal. Briefly, I say that the resolutions that form the basis for the peace process require this complete withdrawal. Resolution 242 talks about the inadmissibility of seizing territory by force or war. Therefore, Israel cannot keep any part of the territories it occupied during the 1967 war and then claim that it has fulfilled its commitment toward the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Therefore, a complete withdrawal is the only solution that will enable us to establish comprehensive and genuine peace in the region.

[Farghali] To what extent are the negotiations dependent on the Syrian-Israeli talks, on the Lebanese-Israeli talks?

[Al-Shar'] We have entered the framework of a comprehensive peace process. But at the same time, there are Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Jordanian courses. Each one tackles its own issues. But the result should be a comprehensive solution. In other words, in the peace talks Syria is demanding from Israel that it withdraw completely from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. This is in implementation of the U.S. initiative, which is based on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. The Lebanese will do the same when they demand the implementation of Resolution 425, and so will the Palestinian and Jordanian brothers. Therefore, we can say that the peace process should lead to a comprehensive solution, to progress on all courses. Each course tackles its own issues.

[Farghali] Do you then expect the Arab-Israeli conflict to end in the near future? If yes, what kind of relations could possibly be established between the Arab countries and Israel?

[Al-Shar'] We have said that if Israel withdraws completely from the territories it occupied by war and force, then this will open the way for achieving a real, comprehensive, and complete peace in the region. This Syrian stand is public and clear. But on the other hand and despite the Israeli prime minister's claims that he is a man of peace and has agreed to implement Resolutions 242 and 338, we have not heard from the Israeli side, either in public statements or at the bilateral peace talks table in Washington, that Israel is willing to withdraw completely from the Syrian Golan Heights.

[Farghali] Let's go back to Lebanon. The Lebanese differ, among other things, over the Syrian role in Lebanon. Is this true? What is the nature of this role and its future horizons?

[Al-Shar'] I do not believe that the Lebanese differ over the nature of the Syrian role. Certain people may have certain views of this role, but the vast majority of the fraternal Lebanese people realize that the Syrian role was important and vital in saving Lebanon from the civil war that dragged on for many years. The overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people realize that Syria established security and stability in Lebanon, particularly at a time when disputes in many parts of the world—Afghanistan, former Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina—have taken serious turns and are exacerbating. Despite the negative atmosphere in many parts of the world, Syria succeeded in placing Lebanon and the Lebanese people on the path toward peace, accord, national reconciliation, and achieving security and stability. Important steps have been taken toward this goal. The main issue in Lebanon at present is to reconstruct the country, because the security situation is improving daily within the framework of the peace process. When the Security Council resolution on Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon is implemented and Israel withdraws, Lebanon will be in the best possible situation.

[Farghali] MBC is honored to have the opportunity to interview you on the sidelines of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meeting. Syria has good and longstanding ties with Iran. Is there a possibility, or rather, is Syria mediating to bring views closer between Iran and the Arab countries that have differences with Iran for various reasons?

[Al-Shar'] Syria's efforts are longstanding. You may remember that during the Iran-Iraq war, Syria exerted major efforts to prevent the war from expanding. We have held intensive contacts with brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries on the one side and Iran on the other to prevent relations between the two sides from deteriorating and to block the expansion of that destructive war. We recently made efforts to secure good-neighborly ties between our brothers in the GCC countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran based on cooperation, mutual interests, and nonintervention in domestic affairs. We made special efforts to solve the existing dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran over the three Gulf islands. We are optimistic about reaching results satisfactory to both sides. I held meetings on the sidelines of the ICO

conference meetings on this issue with Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. I sensed concern on both sides to find a satisfactory and positive solution to end this dispute in the interest of security and stability in the Gulf.

[Farghali] Another point of difference between Iran and some Arab states, such as Algeria and Egypt, pertains to the phenomenon violence in the two countries. Are there any Syrian diplomatic efforts to mediate in this regard?

[Al-Shar'] We regret this deterioration in Egyptian-Iranian relations. We held contacts in this regard to learn the facts of the situation. The two sides assured us of their eagerness to establish normal relations based on mutual respect and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. We also perceived that Iran—as Iranian officials have assured us—is not interfering in Egypt's internal affairs, and that Iran has nothing to do with what is being said about acts of terrorism or violence in Egypt. At any rate, we hope these positions will be examined carefully so that they will not be based on incorrect reports. Adopting positions on the basis of incorrect reports would result in ignoring the real reasons for the acts of violence and terrorism in Egypt and subsequently make the attempt to tackle this issue in Egypt more difficult. We, of course, do not wish the situation in Egypt to become more complex. We hope that the fraternal Egyptian leadership will be able to see the facts as they are in Egypt and to tackle them in the way that serves Egypt's security and stability.

[Farghali] Let us move on to Syrian-Western relations. These relations have witnessed an important, positive development in the past two years. What were the stages of this development in relations, and what is the new strategy regarding relations between the West and Syria?

[Al-Shar'] Syrian-Western relations generally have been based on dialogue. The dialogue has been going on since relations were restored with the United States in 1974 during former President Nixon's visit to Damascus. As you know, Israel has always tried to monopolize relations with the West, particularly with the United States, and to create problems to undermine relations between the West and the Arab states. In other words—and this is no secret—Israel's aim always has been to ruin Arab-Western relations. Perhaps we suffered more than others in this regard. Accusations were leveled against Syria that later turned out to be false and not based on facts. It also became clear to some European governments that Israel created these problems and spread false rumors about Syria. Now, especially in view of the peace process since the Madrid Conference, the dialogue between Syria and the United States has intensified. This helped the United States to become aware of the facts as they are, without the attempts of others to distort them. The United States realized that Syria is serious about the peace process, is doing what it can to abide by the basis of the peace process, and is interested in a comprehensive solution, without which there will be no stability or security in the region. The United States also has begun to realize very well that what is being rumored or said about Syria's policy in Lebanon... [changes thought] It has transpired that this Syrian policy is based on achieving security and peace in Lebanon and national reconciliation among all the Lebanese people. Likewise, through the Gulf war and regarding regional security, particularly Gulf security, the United States and the Western countries have realized the importance of the Syrian role in seriously and sincerely contributing to the achievement of security in this area, which is very sensitive for our peoples and the entire world. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to Israel's Return of Deportees Reported

Sha'th Links Return to Talks

JN3004134993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Manama, 30 Apr (WAKH)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to the Palestinian president, has affirmed that real negotiations have not yet begun and that the Palestinians are still waiting for the Israelis to return the 30 deportees, reunite around 5,000 Palestinian families, and give permits for building 10,000 houses for Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement to Bahrain's AL-AYYAM published today, Sha'th added: We are still waiting for the Israelis to do what they pledged to do. We were not negotiating over the past two days to see whether or not the Israelis would fulfill their promises. We are not willing to play with the Israelis the game of waiting once again, nor will we renegotiate what has already been agreed upon.

Sha'th added that the Palestinian delegation is still waiting for the names of a new batch of Marj al-Zuhur deportees who will be returned by Israel. The list might be received on 29 April.

Answering a question as to whether there is any change in the Israeli proposals, Sha'th said: We want to make sure that there is a serious attitude. The Americans are very eager to see progress. We also want to see progress. However, we do not want the Israelis to think that we have come and forgotten about our conditions. We demand the implementation of what we agreed upon before engaging in the negotiations.

Sha'th added that the return of 30 Palestinians who were deported after 1967 ends the deportation process retroactively and practically. There is a difference, he noted, between pledging not to carry out further deportations and actually returning people deported since 1967. This return embodies a practical end to deportation.

Move Could Lead to 'Tangible Progress'

JN3004160693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Reacting to the return of 15 Palestinian deportees to the West Bank in an unprecedented move, PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said in Tunis today that if the Israeli Government continues to move seriously ahead on an open path [as heard], this would pave the way for tangible progress at the negotiating table.

Affirming that this is the first phase on the way of returning hundreds of deportees, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that today's step demonstrates that the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland is now in being implemented.

'Arafat Makes Statement

LD0205210593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpts] Brothers, Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the president of the Palestinian state and chairman of the PLO, addressed the masses of our Palestinian people who took part in the celebration held today at the national al-Najah University on the occasion of the return of a number of Palestinian deportees to our beloved land, Palestine. Brothers, here follows the speech addressed by brother leader Abu-'Ammar:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Beloved ones. We went to the peace talks in Madrid despite the excessive conditions imposed on us in the belief that we could be made to succumb. However, Palestinian will, action, and distinctive performance, and the Palestinian intifidah made us go to those talks in the capitals of Madrid, Washington and Moscow, for the bilateral and multilateral talks, backed up by a civilizational and revolutionary heritage, which is burning under the invaders' feet. [passage omitted]

After Madrid, they tried to exclude us. However, the most important thing is that we are not excluded now; we exist and we sit at the negotiating table. Those who exist on the political map, which is being drawn in the shade of the new world order, will exist tomorrow, God willing, on the geographical map. That is why we went to Madrid, even under difficult circumstances and excessive conditions. Why did we go under those excessive conditions which excluded Jerusalem and the diaspora? Because we know that behind us there are the people of the mountain of fire, the people of the sacred land. [passage omitted]

Brothers. I advise you, as I advise myself of unity, unity, unity: Fatah, populism, democracy, Arabism, the Palestine Liberation Front [as heard], the struggle, the people's party, Hamas, jihad. Yes, brothers, we all must unite against this enemy that has ravaged our land, heritage, civilization and sacrosanctity. [passage omitted]

PLO's Qaddumi Discusses Current Round of Peace Talks

NC0305065793 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 3 May 93

[Telephone interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, in Tunis, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Qaddumi] Thank you and God bless you.

[Al-Jundi] What do the Palestinians expect from this round of negotiations, which was held despite earlier, major obstacles?

[Qaddumi] We hesitated before attending this round because of Israel's prevarication and its acts of repression inside the occupied territories. We spoke to the peace conference cosponsors about this and said that unless significant progress is made in the next round, the peace process will fail. To cite Hanan 'Ashrawi, there are signs that Israel is trying to be more flexible. But we have seen no concrete results constituting a turning point between stagnation and progress in the peace operation. We will continue the process until we see very clearly that Israel is willing to discuss substantive issues.

[Al-Jundi] What are the substantive issues that must be discussed with the Israelis?

[Qaddumi] The basic issue is the point of reference of the peace process, that is, the application of UN Security Council Resolution 242 to the process. The Palestinians must assume direct and full authority over the land, water, and other natural resources. Additionally, legislative elections must be held to elect those who will supervise the transitional period. Other issues must also be discussed: Jerusalem, the fate of the settlements, and the refugees. All other issues must be discussed in the one-year transitional period during which the Palestinians must have full authority over all their affairs. This includes security.

[Al-Jundi] Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians, has asserted that Israel has offered to transfer to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, authority over health and education and their budgets. Do you view this offer by Tel Aviv as a step toward transferring every authority to the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank?

[Qaddumi] Apparently, Israeli offers have not changed. The issue is not one of authority over health and education. These are administrative issues. All such issues must be linked with the Palestinian people's full sovereignty over all their affairs. If there are exceptions—imposed by necessity—during the transitional period, Israel must tell the Palestinian delegation what these are. But to say we can run health, education, and similar administrative affairs means Israel retains sovereignty

over the land and has the last word. No. We say sovereignty must be in the hands of the Palestinian people. We acknowledge that some exceptions must be made—for numerous security and other reasons and to build mutual trust. These exceptions must be made only during the transitional period.

[Al-Jundi] Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation, visited Tunis and met Palestinian leaders. Was he given specific instructions to convey to the Palestinian delegation in Washington?

[Qaddumi] Brother Sa'ib 'Urayqat explained to us all the details and offers that were made. The leadership listened carefully and gave him clear instructions about what could be done during the negotiations. We must know what the transition will be like and on what foundations it will stand. We must draw up an agenda. All this is linked with the substance of Resolution 242, which touches on land, water, and other resources and the Palestinian people's full authority over these affairs.

[Al-Jundi] The Palestinian leadership came under numerous pressures to boycott the talks with Israel. Now, several days after the ninth round began, some observers believe the Palestinian leadership bears huge responsibilities and wishes to show the Palestinian public that this round of negotiations will make noticeable progress to justify its decision to continue the talks.

[Qaddumi] Doubtless, concrete and substantive progress in the negotiations will give the Palestinian masses hope of seeing a breakthrough and make them give greater support to the peace process, as they did when the Madrid conference was held. The leadership formulates public opinion in the final reckoning, but the leadership needs real achievements to formulate [tasugh] public opinion in the right direction.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you. You are always welcome to speak through the Voice of the Arabs.

[Qaddumi] Thank you very much. We appreciate your pan-Arab duty and blessed efforts. God bless you.

Fatah Warns Against Attacks on Delegates

JN0305105393 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 May 93

["Text" of statement issued by the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, "last week" and "distributed throughout the occupied Palestinian state" on the ninth round of the peace talks]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A statement to the masses issued by the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, in the state of Palestine.

O masses of our heroic people: Amid the challenges facing our people political problems and different views have emerged in our Palestinian arena on how to deal with the developments and changes produced by the new world order. Fatah has become aware that it shoulders a historic responsibility for leading this important militant stage in the history of our Palestinian people. Fatah was able—through its national thinking which constitutes the denominator of all our people—to realize the nature and balances of the existing conflict and to wage a diplomatic confrontation in a one-way road [words indistinct] armed with plans to counter the plot aimed at liquidating the PLO and obliterating the rights of our people.

The current peace process has formed, since the beginning, an important stage in our militant history. The events, which preceded this march and produced its present characteristics, were not normal events. The Madrid conference came in the wake of two great wars in this age; that is, the Gulf war and the cold war. The United States and its ally Israel were in the position of the victor who wanted to impose capitulation on our region and our people. The isolation, which these forces tried to impose on us, aimed at depriving the PLO of its leading role as a national liberation movement for the Palestinian people. Meanwhile, Washington did its utmost to reconsider the Zionist movement as a national liberation movement for the Jewish people, as the (?Americans) put it.

The PLO was able to deal efficiently with this storm which was trying to uproot it. It was also able to adhere to its principled stand in the Gulf war, and at the same time, break the isolation relying on the support of our masses inside and outside the occupied territory.

The Madrid stage and the Washington rounds of talks imposed this one-way road which is based on [words indistinct], improving the conditions, and paving a path for our Palestinian people amid this political jungle. The PLO was the last Arab party to accept participation in the (?ninth round). The PLO, and Fatah in particular, became aware of the nature and changes of the conflict in the Middle East with their world, Islamic, and Arab dimensions. This (?administration) has its own way of dealing with the current stage with all its various dimensions and colors.

As our movement follows up [words indistinct] all Zionist- American schemes aimed at liquidating the PLO and the national Palestinian identity, our movement is also aware of the nature and seriousness of the weapons used by the enemy to achieve its objectives. At the same time, our movement is also aware that it is the outward and inherent force of our Palestinian people and our Arab and Islamic nation. Our movement has always been known for its comprehensive, revolutionary, and realistic course. It has always prepared defensive plans to counter the liquidatory schemes so that it can maintain the first principle of the conflict; that is, preserving the identity.

On this basis, our Palestinian delegation bravely confronted the Israeli schemes. It determinedly and stubbornly adhered to our inalienable national constants, and stressed a just, comprehensive, and durable solution (?on

all fronts). When the PLO joined the political process, that required that a clear role be assumed by the opposition within the PLO cadres, something which has contributed to providing a complete image of the Palestinian mind and conscience. In all that, principles should be maintained and red lines should not be breached, so that national unity would remain intact within the PLO, thus enabling the PLO to impose its national terms on the peace process in accordance with the resolutions of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the PLO Central Council [PCC]. Accordingly, Palestinian representation on both the bilateral and multilateral tracks of the peace process would be comprehensive [words indistinct].

O masses of our people: Political pluralism and the ability of the factions of the Palestinian revolution to speak their own mind have been and continue to be among the distinctive Palestinian manifestations in which we take pride. Thus, we have managed to safeguard democracy in the jungle of rifles and throughout the stages of the armed revolution, including our people's great intifadah. Since criticism and self-criticism are the most sublime principles of our movement, Fatah, all viewpoints are listened to inside our movement. Similarly, our Palestinian arena needs this spirit and principle, away from the language of internecine fighting and divisions. Such differences must not be exploited in the interest of any force outside the national Palestinian interests.

O masses of our heroic people: As it shoulders its national responsibilities at this difficult stage and amid some manifestations of demagoguery and attempts by some to sow chaos and divisions inside our Palestinian community, the Fatah movement in Palestine declares to the masses of our people that it will bear its full responsibility toward maintaining the Palestinian community's security and stability. It will deal severe blows to whoever dares to tamper with the security and stability of the masses of our people. Our movement, Fatah, affirms that it assumes full responsibility toward protecting the national Palestinian decisionmaking, which includes the protection of the members of the Palestinian negotiating team, being the ones who implement the decision of the legitimate leadership of the Palestinian people. This decision has been approved by the PNC and the PCC. It will hold any person or group that counters the delegates, except through legitimate democratic means of expression, personally and morally responsible. It will consider any threat to any member of the Palestinian negotiating team or their property or families an attack against Fatah. Severe measures and punishment will be taken against whoever mounts such attacks and the party with which he is affiliated. Since 17 April 1993, all Fatah security organs and strike forces throughout the state of Palestine have been instructed to assume this responsibility.

O masses of our Palestinian people: As the leader of the Palestinian people, the PLO, and political process, our movement's responsibility requires from us that we accept from the sons of our people and march any criticism or opinion, whether it is in line with the Fatah viewpoint or not, provided that no violence is involved and that no fighting is called for among the brothers and the comrade strugglers for the mere reason that there are diverse political views inside our Palestinian arena. Fatah stresses the need to affirm and consolidate national unity. This requires that all parties abide by the bases and principles of democratic action in the Palestinian arena. It constantly reiterates and affirms the call for a comprehensive national dialogue involving all parties on democratic bases that primarily take into consideration free Palestine, the people, the Palestinian objectives, and the aspirations for which our great people have struggled and continue to struggle through all field and political means for the sake of the [word indistinct].

It is a revolution until victory.

Signed: The Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah [words indistinct]

Palestinian Delegate in Tunis for Talks With 'Arafat

LD0205001593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Pending the resumption of the second stage of the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli negotiations next Monday, some members of the Palestinian negotiating team have begun moving to consult with the Palestinian leadership over the current peace process. The arrival was recorded yesterday [1 May] of the deputy chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, Saib 'Urayqat, to Tunisia from Washington.

The Palestinian news agency said that the Palestinian official had stated that the objective of his visit was to present a detailed report to the president of the state of Palestine, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, and also to the Palestinian leadership over the proceedings of the peace negotiations process under way in Washington. He said that he would receive instructions for the Palestinian delegation to continue the negotiations process in the coming days.

The first week of the ninth round of negotiations that started last Tuesday, after a four-month break, ended with an agreement to set up working committees on defining Palestinian self-rule, land, and waters.

PFLP-GC Statement on Israeli Raid Reported

JN3004180693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] A responsible source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] made the following statement:

At 0700 today, the air force of the Zionist entity raided one of our centers that carries out social and cultural activities in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah area of south Lebanon.

The enemy aircraft fired a number of rockets at the center damaging citizens' houses in the area and seriously injuring a passerby.

Hence, we want to say that what the Zionist enemy is doing, represented by its brutal and barbaric actions against our people inside or outside Palestine, are but a continuation of its aggressive design against our people and the Arab nation.

We want to say to those who bargain and surrender, who are members of the so-called Palestinian delegation, and to the Tunis [PLO] leadership: Enough defeatism, and enough believing the Zionist enemy and the United States. This Zionist behavior and their aggressive escalation are but an implementation of Rabin's promises of goodwill gestures. These are Rabin's initiatives: More killing and destruction to the civilians inside and outside the occupied territories.

We in the PFLP-GC stress that confronting the enemy is not through positions of defeatism and humiliation, but through dignity and self-respect that is baptized with blood and armed struggle.

Algeria

Terrorist Killed in Raid in Bordj Bou Arreridj

LD0105143593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] The security situation: A terrorist was killed yesterday in the Mehir area in Bordj Bou Arreridj province, and a quantity of weapons which were in his possession were recovered.

The command of the National Gendarmerie, which announced this today, stated that the operation took place immediately after a series of attacks in which hunting rifles were seized from 19 people in the Mansoura area in Bordj Bou Arreridj province. Gendarmerie forces began a search for the perpetrators yesterday in the Mehir area in the same province. This operation resulted in the death of a wanted terrorist, called Maariche Cherif, aged 25 years, who worked as a guard at a farm and lived in Ouled Abbes. A hunting rifle stolen from a citizen which was in Cherif's possession was recovered, in addition to a number of cartridges and a telescopic sight.

The operation also led to the discovery of a weapons cache near the scene of the incident which contained a home-made rifle, two telescopic sights, a Biretta automatic pistol, two other hunting rifles, ammunition, and material for making cartridges for hunting rifles.

Terrorists Arrested in Constantine Region

LD0205232993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The Constantine province security services announced that a group of 12 terrorists has been arrested and brought before justice today. The same source said that the security services were able to arrest, on 20 April, the first group of five people while they were in the process of planting two handmade bombs inside a car belonging to an official of a national enterprise, who was in the car then, in order to kill him.

It became clear during the investigation that the fifth member of this group had been involved in planting a bomb which went off in Constantine province on 6 February. He was accompanied by another group of three people who are on the run right now.

According to the Constantine criminal police team, an investigation made it possible to arrest another group of seven men, who were giving financial assistance to the terrorists. This operation led to the seizure of two handmade bombs, a shotgun, and a [Peugeot] 205 car used by these terrorists.

Egypt

President Mubarak Delivers May Day Speech

NC0105142793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0859 GMT 1 May 93

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at May Day celebrations at the Railway Club in Madinat al-Nasr, Cairo—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother and sister workers of Egypt, builders of its civilization, defenders of its security, and makers of its progress: On this day, hopes are revived, despite all the difficulties. These hopes chase out despair, spread optimism, and revive the efforts of a noble country and people who deserve a better future for coming generations. On your day, Egypt's hopes are doubled, because you are the supporters and builders of the future, who are initiating construction in all parts of the country; developing cities, coasts, and factories; and farming rich fields that double the resources of the country and increase its ability to fulfill the demands of its people.

The colossal accomplishment is evident throughout Egypt, from Hala'ib in the far south [applause] to Egyptian Rafah in the far north, and from Tabah in the far east, to the last point in the western desert. This colossal accomplishment is the product of energetic people who love this country deeply. It is the fruit of an honest effort by millions of Egyptians. This effort represents a continuation of the heritage of a great people, whose role throughout history has been to build and not destroy. This colossal achievement was not for the benefit of a few people or a certain class, but was an achievement for the benefit of all the people. We have spent billions of pounds on utilities that have dilapidated and deteriorated. This we did for the benefit of all the Egyptian people and not for the benefit of a few people or a certain class. We have built new cities, not for the benefit of a few people or a certain class, but to attract national investments that will provide new job opportunities for the Egyptian youths. We have established resorts along all the Egyptian coasts not for the benefit of a few people or a certain clash, but so that the Egyptians can find a new outlet beyond the area of the valley, which has become limited in its resources for its people. Our work has been and continues to be purely for the benefit of the country.

We saw our principal role as an example, restoring the Egyptian individual's confidence in himself and in his country, recharging efforts, opening the doors of participation, removing obstacles so that Egypt will become a country for producers. Our primary preoccupation has been to instill new values in society, promoting solidarity and unity, and making the progress of the country the responsibility of every citizen. Our objective has been and remains to build a cohesive society, not to be torn apart by conflict, a society whose forces are united by common interest that opens the doors of participation to

all and does not exclude anyone, utilizing its resources well and not wasting any of them. This is because societies that are more cohesive and united are those that are more capable of shaping the future.

Societies governed by the philosophy of conflicts and infighting are incapable of fulfilling their peoples' demands. This is why I have persisted in saying that a strong and capable homeland cannot be achieved with the state's efforts alone, but requires the efforts of all the people and the conscious participation of every individual on clear bases that ensure a restoration of confidence and exclude tendencies for hegemony and custodianship. I thank God that the cycle has turned toward the right direction and to a greater degree than many expected. The citizen's confidence in his homeland's economy has been restored. A new climate prevails in Egypt that has greatly encouraged extensive investment in the industrial, agricultural, tourism, and services sectors. The private sector, which had desisted from any participation in any productive activity, has become a basic partner in the development process.

This great achievement, the signs and establishments of which can be seen in every area of Egypt, is an achievement by society as a whole. You are its vanguard and striking force in the production field. It is the achievement of the public and private sectors, of companies and individuals, of workers and employers, and of a people who have discovered the path to progress after much toil and suffering. These people placed their feet on the right course when they became fully convinced that the homeland rises and advances only through the initiatives of citizens who produce, excel, and compete and when there is no ceiling to the contribution of any individual or group and when there is no objection to legitimate profits as long as they pay their dues to the state.

Brother citizens. What a difference there is between the one who builds and the one who destroys. What a difference there is between men who sweat to add to the homeland a new potency that helps it shoulder the burdens of the future and others who have been gripped by wretchedness and turned into tools of ruin that squander and destroy or diminish the homeland's capability. Egypt's efforts throughout history have been to build and construct and not to destroy and demolish. There is nothing in Egypt's age-old history that shows that destruction and ruin are part of the Egyptians' character. From where, then, comes this wretched behavior that violates every single national interest? Why this black malice that is compelling one to harm the livelihood of his brother? From where does it come? Why this insistence on antagonizing tourism? Who is benefiting from this? Why this cowardly action that causes death to lie in wait for innocent citizens in the street and the coffee shop? Why is this misguided minority vexed when it sees Egypt becoming a safe country where tourists from all over the world come to spend almost $4 billion annually—money that revives Egypt's economy and provides legitimate sources of livelihood for hundreds of thousands of Egyptians?

Why does it bother this misguided minority to see Egypt becoming a stable country capable of attracting huge investments, which contribute toward the establishment of different and numerous projects that add to Egypt's production and provide honorable work opportunities for thousands of our youths? Why does it bother this irresponsible minority to see Egypt prospering and its hope in a better future growing stronger?

We were about to pass through a bottleneck, and all signs were indicating that the national economy was responding to the economic reform measures and that the economy had passed its crucial crisis and was on the threshold of the surge stage. Hopes have increased regarding the possibility of tackling the basic problems facing Egyptian society, particularly the problems of unemployment and increasing population. It is wrong to say that the reason is religious, as they claim. There is nothing in religion that calls for murder, sabotage, and destroying the people's livelihood. There is nothing in religion that calls for destroying the sources of national economy, which bring income to the country to benefit millions of Egyptians. There is nothing in religion that calls for terrorizing foreign visitors who came to learn about the civilization of an ancient country and the heritage of a nation that has taught humanity the meaning of civilization. There is nothing in religion that calls for terrorizing the citizen through cowardly actions that treacherously jeopardize the lives of innocent people.

Brothers and sisters, I will be frank with you. I ask you to be witnesses before God on what is happening at the hands of a few people in this country who were misled by devious ideology, corrupted by non-patriotic interests, and who launched a war against their country and kinfolk. They have lost their minds and senses, their heart and consciences, and have become tools of destruction of a country that has not committed any sin—a country that is struggling to improve its lot under difficult local, regional, and international conditions, and an increasing population that exceeds its resources and capabilities. But they have imposed their grief on it, stirring the spirit of strife and planting seeds of division, and have undermined unity and sabotaged its successes so that the country could not get out of the bottlenecks. This is designed to serve the plots of foreign forces whose aim is to keep Egypt busy by this difficult situation and therefore not have time to improve its situation or future. Who benefits from undermining Egypt's stability?

Egypt has succeeded in remaining an oasis of peace amid a world pervaded by sweeping anarchy, grinding conflicts, ethnic hatred, and black terrorism fed by foreign interests devoted to exporting the forces of murder and evil instead of exporting good and progress. Who benefits from a situation in which Egypt becomes exhausted and involved with its problems, diverted from building the future by secondary battles imposed by evil, plotting forces in order to hinder its progress?

This danger has infiltrated Egypt through a destructive ideology supported and financed by several foreign sources. This destructive ideology has falsely assumed the mantle of religion to mislead some of our youth and turn them into a destructive force that spreads evil in the country and terrorizes peaceful Egypt with a series of acts of violence and assassination, which resulted at the beginning of this decade with the assassination of the late President Anwar al-Sadat—a man who gave them security and released them from prison.

Brothers and sisters: Ever since I had the honor to assume power, my concern has been to treat this danger with patience and reason. We did all we could to enlighten our youths about the dimensions of the plot aimed at corrupting them and manipulating their will to fight their own people and homeland. We wanted and still want to save our youths from this devastating plague, which kills their souls and innocence and turns them into a source of crime and destruction. We went ahead with building our genuinely democratic society under difficult circumstances out of confidence that democracy will be a sound solution that can accommodate such perils.

I was convinced that the Egyptian people will not accept violence and bloodshed and that they will be capable of safeguarding their democracy from a minority that wants to impose its control over all of society through terrorism and threats. I was convinced that the establishments of the state and society under sound democracy will be capable of confronting this minority that deviates from the national consensus. This minority antagonizes democracy and rejects pluralism because it seeks a totalitarian system devoid of opportunities for dialogue and freedom of speech, a system that destroys and hunts down opponents inside and outside the country, empties the country of its cultured and educated people and cadres, and displaces them throughout the world, as has happened with other countries.

The popular councils and People's Assembly apply their constitutional rights to pass legislation and exercise control. The political parties exercise full freedom without restrictions or controls. As a matter of fact, certain party papers have taken a strong and brave stand in support of the government's position on a number of important issues affecting the homeland's supreme interests. Small groups, however, departed from this predominant national trend and sought to move outside the framework of national accord. They incited violence and called for sedition. We favor turning a blind eye and giving the people the opportunity to discover for themselves the true role played by these groups. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: I have always believed that democracy is capable of correcting the march and confronting mistakes under a free press that plays a supervising and progressive role governed only by the law. Proceeding from my firm belief that a free press constitutes a basic pillar of democratic society, the Egyptian press was freed of all restrictions and has played a greater role in guiding national action. The papers began to feature diverse views and opinions. Every writer now has the opportunity to say what he wishes. The only control over Egyptian writers now is their national conscience, their feelings about the nature of the challenges facing the homeland, and their responsible assessment of what is right and what is wrong without interference or objection from any side.

Despite numerous instances of excess that have accompanied the press' treatment of a number of issues that affect the homeland's reputation or interests, we have not gone beyond appealing to the press to consider the homeland's issues, verify reports, and avoid excessive generalizations. We have not allowed ourselves to interfere to prevent any writer from expressing his views, because we want the democratic exercise to be complete. There will be no complete democracy without mature public views that weigh things as they are and distinguish right from wrong.

I believe that our people are intelligent; they can differentiate between a good word that serves the country and a malicious word that poisons the minds of the country's young men. I have demonstrated patience and tolerance, even toward those who have intentionally harmed and distorted the image of the country, and who, through their words, have promoted sedition, shamelessly encouraged destruction, and deliberately participated in the attempts to obstruct the march of the homeland.

I praise God that our people were smart and realized the position of those groups, realized their objectives, and contained their influence when they found them to be outside the national rank. There was, and there still is, hope that Egypt will witness the safe growth of the first democratic experience in the Arab world after World War II—an experience we offer as an example for our Arab world to emulate. We feel proud that this democratic experience has succeeded in broadening the base of participation, boosting the spirit of affiliation, and protecting national stability.

The democratic practice, despite some mistakes, has honestly managed to make continuous progress, proving that the national forces, except for a limited trend that has chosen to support violence and terrorism, can commit themselves to the high interests of the country. But this bright picture of the democratic experience is not to the liking of some elements, who feel hurt when the march of economic reforms is bolstered by the success of the democratic practice. These people were displeased to see Egypt about to complete its democratic system and overcome the most difficult segments of the economic reforms. They were annoyed to see evidence of a brighter future.

Brothers and sisters: Some hate to see Egypt restore its power and play an effective role in the Arab world and the region. Some hate to see Egypt with substantial international influence and playing the greatest role in our Arab security. Some hate to see Egypt waking up to

its future and succeeding in creating a true model for continuing development and democratic participation, as this would close the door to the advocates of darkness, who want to subjugate the Arab world to a new totalitarian rule that falsely hides behind the cloak of religion.

The conspiracy is clear. It is exposed by its dark objectives and evident intentions. It is exposed by its rapid timing so that Egypt cannot escape the bottleneck. It is exposed by the vile crimes that target the people's livelihood and seek to destroy our national economy. I cannot absolve the foreign forces—who we all know—from having an active role in this conspiracy. We have a lot of evidence confirming this. I cannot absolve the international terrorist gangs—whose schemes, interests, and crimes are interlinked—from the role of the partner in this conspiracy. Very regrettably, I cannot absolve Egyptian hands, which might be mere tools in a vast conspiracy, because we have repeatedly advised and warned them and we have sought and continue to seek to make them return to the right path and to reason. Egypt will never move backward, and its people will not allow these few individuals, who departed from the national rank, to destroy the interests of an entire nation. [applause and chants against "Traitors, the enemies of Egypt!"]

Egyptian workers will never accept the crimes that are tantamount to treason and that seek to destroy the people's property, deprive them of their jobs, and spread recession. Egyptian farmers will not accept this perversion, which in the name of religion, tries falsely to justify crimes, thefts, killing, and the betrayal of honor and trust. Egyptian intellectuals will not accept terrorism as a symbol of civilized, enlightened, tolerant, and faithful Egypt. Egyptian scholars will not accept the distortion these groups attach to the image of Islam, which is the most perfect religion and noblest mission. Egypt's youth will not agree to being used as hatchets to demolish their country and civilization or to becoming pliable tools in the hands of evil forces that do not seek Egypt's well-being and glory. We depend on these youths to be the mainstay of construction and rejuvenation in the age of revival. The new generation of Egypt's sons will not allow their beloved homeland to fall prey to rancorous and covetous forces that are unhappy about Egypt being a center of radiation, a torch of knowledge and learning, and a bastion of true Islam, which is a religion of tolerance, reason, and progress.

To this small group that is deceived by false ideas and misled by evil and sinful forces, I would like to say: What happened to you? Have you been so spellbound that you are blind to the truth? How can you allow yourselves to do things that God banned? You murder innocent people and wreak havoc in the land that produced the greatest civilization in ancient history. You are offending Islam, its image, and teachings. Return to your senses, go back to God, and repent. O youth: You are the source of Egypt's pride and dignity. Remove this plague from you and your homeland so as to eliminate this sedition aimed at rendering Egypt a weak and fragmented entity. All we want for you is your wellbeing and a prosperous future. All we aspire to is glory for the homeland and prosperity for its sons.

It is dangerous and mistaken for anyone who belongs to this homeland and civilization to imagine that he can achieve a legitimate interest by harming his country or the interests of the people, of whom he is an indivisible part. He cannot make any gain by threatening his people' security and safety.

It remains to say that we are all confident that we will overcome this tribulation and put an end to sedition as soon as possible. Let it be very clear that there will be no tolerance and mercy for anyone who takes the gun into his hand to harm Egypt' security and independence. [applause]

Brothers and sisters. I would like on this occasion to address on your behalf and on behalf of all groups of the Egyptian people a greeting to Egypt's policemen [applause], who are waging a battle of heroic sacrifice. They are attacking the dens of terrorism, ignoring the weapons of death lying in wait for them behind doors. They are martyred and wounded by the bullets of perfidy and betrayal in defense of a homeland that deserves to live and a people who deserve the most precious of sacrifices. I pray to Almighty God to bestow His mercy on our noble martyrs, to grant them paradise, and to inspire their relatives with patience and solace.

Brothers. War was the most serious danger threatening Egypt's future. When war ceased to be a reason for exhausting resources and when Egypt became convinced that peace was the better choice for all peoples in the region, attempts began to export sectarian sedition. This was followed by the recent wave of terrorism that has tried to penetrate the wall of Egyptian steadfastness.

I am confident that the wave of terrorism soon will break up and disappear. Terrorism is alien to Egypt's soil, values, and principles. It comes here through foreign scheming that does not want Egypt to be strong or immune. Thus it becomes part of our national responsibility to seek to strengthen our domestic front and our national unity, because there are some who will try with all means possible to break the bonds of the homeland and disrupt its cohesiveness so that it cannot attain its objectives of renaissance and progress. The most precious thing Egypt now possesses is its national unity and cohesiveness, its increasing awareness of the interconnected interests among the various groups of the people, its mature realization of the nature of the positive role that all Egyptians can play in the development projects, and its desire to exploit every single national resource and effort. The homeland's eye should remain open and it should take care of the poor, the poorest, most crowded areas, and the poorest regions. Therefore, equitably distributing investments among Egypt's governorates in accordance with their economic conditions and equitably distributing services among the various cities' quarters will certainly strengthen social peace and ensure balanced development that boosts

the spirit of national affiliation. Replanning the randomly built quarters and providing them with services and facilities are part of this.

I believe that we are continuing along this road despite the heavy burdens, the difficult economic conditions, and the burdens that we might have to face when transient incidents take place, such as the earthquake tragedy. All the homeland's resources at that time were mobilized to alleviate the effects of the earthquake on the poor.

Dear citizens. It was an inevitable necessity for society to shoulder part of the burdens of the economic reform process. The only alternative was total economic collapse, because Egypt's economy had dried up as a result of a chronic imbalance that deprived it of the ability to advance. We used to obtain more loans than we could repay, produce much less than we needed, and pay subsidies that almost devoured most of the revenues. The economic reform conditions forced us to take the medicine despite its bitterness. This caused suffering for many groups among our people, which struggled, persevered, and tried as hard as they could to reconcile with the difficult situation. Regrettably, some are ignoring the severity of the national guidelines, which were laid down to bring about the inevitable reforms so that the economy could regain its ability to grow and provide the right solutions to unemployment and high prices.

Some people ignored those guidelines and portrayed the economic reform as a new bias on the part of the government toward the able at the expense of the unable in society. This is an erroneous and largely misleading interpretation. Our bias toward the less able categories is still firm. We believe this is one of the basic foundations of government. In essence, economic reform means bias toward the less able categories because it broadens the bases of production to ensure new jobs. Encouraging those who can invest and open new prospects for national work is a sound objective that serves social peace, in addition to being an economic objective designed to increase production and exports.

Similar to this are current claims that the state will sell the public sector for a very cheap price, that Egypt will once again be controlled by foreigners, and that we will not care about the future of the workers if some establishments change ownership. But why should we sell the public sector for a very cheap price? What compels us to sell it to foreigners? Can we possibly harm the rights of our workers? These, too, are false claims that clearly entail bad intentions with a view toward breaking the bonds of the homeland, casting doubts, and sowing contention among the country's forces.

We wanted to liberate the public business sector so that it could grow more powerful and capable. We gave management the freedom to make decisions within the framework of a clear responsibility that determines rewards and punishment. We wanted to pump into this sector new investments to redouble its energies. We, therefore, opened the doors to all Egyptians willing to participate, and we very clearly announced that we will not relinquish the massive production facilities, which represent the important castles of Egyptian industry. We also declared that the workers' rights will be safeguarded if some establishments change ownership. [applause]

Let me repeat before you from this podium that we will not allow a single worker to lose his rights. Our workers support our present and future; they are Egypt's power and creative energy; they are the growers of virtue and makers of progress. How can we possibly relinquish their rights? [applause] We have sufficient national sense and historical experience to safeguard the capabilities of the homeland. No one can force us into options against our will or against our national interests.

Perhaps it is also my duty to warn against those who are increasingly talking about corruption in Egypt. They, in turn, seek to weaken the domestic front. They want to see nothing but some negative phenomena, which is limited compared to what is happening in some other near and far countries and compared to Egypt's tremendous achievements. I am not saying we are a society of Puritans or angels. We are humans: Some of us do the right thing, others make mistakes; we have the good and the bad among us; there are many honorable people that fear God, and others who have corrupt consciences and who give their personal interests precedence over the interests of the people and the homeland. This exists throughout the world.

It is sad that all those who speak about corruption in Egypt base their arguments on events and incidents that the state has vowed to investigate and clamp down on. Had they been fair, they would have also mentioned the state's efforts in ending corruption and deviation. We are serious in fighting corruption, but we cannot prosecute or harass innocent people. We cannot invade the privacy of innocent people or take illegal action against them. We have no power exceeding that of the law and will not seek any. We do not and will not take action without a court ruling.

Our democracy underpins a powerful, proud, and independent institution: the judiciary. Thousands of honorable Egyptians work for that institution, meting out justice and handing down legal rulings. The members of the judiciary are answerable to their conscience and to longstanding regulations involving close scrutiny of their work. Strict measures are in place to guarantee that the judiciary's reputation and probity are not compromised. [applause]

Brother citizens, we have an outstanding duty to protect our national cohesion from the attempts to spread sedition and division. Another worthy duty is that of safeguarding our peace. Without peace, Egypt will not be able to tackle its chronic and serious problems. Without peace, it would be hard for us to maintain our course of economic development and progress.

I took office at a critical, difficult, and crucial time. Peace was still fragile, shrouded in misunderstanding and haunted by the hostility of numerous quarters. Egypt was alone on the scene, but it went on fighting for the restoration of Arab rights and land. When I took office, it was clear that we had two major commitments and that we could not compromise on either. One was to restore the entire Egyptian land. [applause; cheers] The second was to ensure that peace with Israel would be a prelude to the rest of the Arab nations achieving just peace.

Despite the tough negotiations and the numerous obstacles—God knows how difficult it was—we achieved an honorable peace for Egypt and succeeded in restoring our entire national soil. Egyptian flags wave over our entire soil.

In a world haunted by ambitions and chaos, a just and honorable peace cannot be preserved through laxness. We cannot depend on others to defend the national soil against any possible maneuvers or threats. Our Armed Forces must be capable of defending our land, protecting the achievements of our people, and repulsing numerous forces that do not want Egypt to have peace or achieve progress.

I thank God that, despite the scarcity of resources but with the support of friends, we succeeded in modernizing and renovating the Egyptian Armed Forces within the framework of sound scientific planning that has raised their efficiency to new world standards. Egypt has the right to be proud of its Armed Forces, which are capable of repelling any dangers threatening the homeland despite the relative shortage of resources allocated annually to modernize the Armed Forces. [applause] Egypt has the right to be proud of the performance of the Armed Forces members who helped deter the aggression in defense of a fraternal Arab country. Their performance was praised by military science experts around the world.

Brother citizens. Our constant and firm objective will remain the achievement of constant comprehensive development despite all the changes, development that is capable of fulfilling the increasing demands of our people and shouldering the burdens of the future dictated by the huge annual increase in the population. This is our national plan. All efforts should rally to ensure its success because there is no alternative for constantly expanding Egypt's production bases so that they can provide the commodities, services, and jobs that the people need and which must be periodically doubled within a specific timeframe due to the great population growth.

It was impossible to attain this objective without starting the implementation of our comprehensive plan for economic reform. The world and all the international institutions have testified that it was the most successful program achieved by any developing country in the past 10 years. For the first time ever, we succeeded in achieving tangible reduction in the population growth rate. We succeeded in removing half the debts burdening Egypt's economy, in rectifying the chronic imbalance in the Egyptian economic infrastructure, and in laying down firm bases for development and progress. [passage omitted]

I am not a pessimist, but there was a time when I almost lost heart. However, I utilized our good relations. I always used political pressure and contacted friendly nations and financial institutions. God is gracious. The United States wrote off $7 billion. This $7 billion could have reached $23 or $24 billion, if we take the interest, servicing, and rescheduling into account.

Our brothers in Arab countries wrote off about $7 billion. Then the Americans, after writing off $7 billion, passed a resolution in the Congress... [pauses] during this time we were holding many contacts with House representatives, senators, and U.S. Administration officials. I remember that in October 1990, I probably telephoned 52 congressmen to ask them to help us. This was the first time they were to write off a debt and they had to go about it in a special way. They had congressional elections on 4 November and somehow devised a way to write off the debt. Then the congressmen called on the U.S. Administration to get in touch with other countries to which Egypt is indebted and ask them to reduce their debts. [As if they said:] Why should we write off Egyptian debts when other creditors get paid?

Actually, other countries cooperated in a similar way, but they are reducing our debts in accordance with the phases of economic reform. In the first phase, they reduced our debts by 15 percent. Later this month, there will be another 15-percent reduction. By the end of the program—and this is the last program we are going to have with them—there will be another 20-percent reduction in our debts. This means that a large chunk of our debts will disappear. The remainder is something we can live with. But we have introduced a strong control [preceding word in English] on borrowing. [passage omitted] We expect the total reduction of our debt to reach $19.8 billion by the middle of 1994, God willing. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, I see it as my duty to involve you with me in reviewing our plan of action in the coming phase. We are in a better position than ever before to deal with the problems of development and provide future generations with a better life.

The coming phase requires—to be specific—the formulation of 12 programs aiming to resolve the lingering problems of the past, address the challenges of the future, and spread development and progress in every part of Egypt.

First, we should immediately begin a national program to improve public services in the randomly built [al-manatiq al-'ashwa'iyah; a euphemism for slums] areas in various governorates. We will begin with 10 governorates and will do some serious work there. This program

will begin in two months. Actually, some efforts in this regard have started already. We have started to work on that scheme in parts of Cairo. Al-Jizah and other governorates will follow.

Second, we have learned from past experience that development should proceed on an even keel in all governorates. This is true for economic development as well as for public services. I have given instructions to officials to give me within three months the true picture of development and services in every governorate.

We have to look at the big picture. Currently, investment is concentrated in Cairo. We have created industrial areas in South Egypt. We are encouraging investment in the south, for we need to create jobs for the youths there. We must give more development opportunities to those governorates that have so far been underdeveloped. [passage omitted]

Fifth [as heard; third and fourth points not enumerated], to speed up the creation of millions of jobs, we have to continue investing in infrastructure. Infrastructure is essential. Therefore, we will step up investment in electricity, transport, roads, new cities, potable water, and sewage. [passage omitted]

Sixth, we have to safeguard the infrastructure that we have built and that greatly contributes to development in the country. Our efforts to encourage investment must not be confined to liberalizing the economy and providing services to the investors. We should simplify the investment regulations and announce them in advance to investors. I have ordered the formulation of a complete program to simplify the laws governing economic activities by the end of this year. Chief among these laws are the ones governing the start of businesses and taxes. I believe that the unified tax system will be referred to the People's Assembly soon.

I sympathize with citizens' complaints with government services. I am aware that reforming public services is a difficult and intricate task. Huge investments and public outlays are needed, as well as enlightened minds to simplify the laws, by-laws, and work procedures. We need managers who are broadminded and capable. The experience of other countries shows that it is impossible to undertake this reform all at once. Reform needs to take place gradually. [passage omitted]

Ninth [as heard; seventh and eighth points not enumerated], all the studies I read about the experiences of advanced and developing countries in fighting unemployment underline the need to focus on small industries—the Labor Federation chief and the labor minister agree with this assessment. This is true for industry, agriculture, tourism, and services. Small industries can create jobs quickly and with the advantage of modest overhead.

Tenth, improved productivity leads to an increase in business as well as public revenues, which can be translated into higher wages and improved services. Our way to achieve this goal is to encourage initiative and absorb technologies developed in countries more advanced than ours.

Eleventh, a wonderful development has taken place. Egypt's foreign currency revenues have outstripped its payments. However, our exports are still modest. [passage omitted] It is necessary to build a business structure capable of increasing exports. The Egyptian Public Business Sector agencies, in cooperation with trade unions and the state's competent authorities, should formulate policies and programs on ways to encourage exports. We try to employ our relations with all countries to open new export markets. This is one of our top priorities in the coming phase and efforts should be stepped up in this regard.

Twelfth, the ability of society to increase production, jobs, and wages depends on its education and training programs. Therefore, reforming education in all its phases and refurbishing training institutes in all their forms top our objectives in the coming phase. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters. The Egyptian people realized throughout all the phases of their history that peace is the sublime aim that they must be seeking and maintaining and the conditions necessary for the success of the development and reconstruction plans and for having the needed balance between various countries.

The importance of establishing a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East region has increased since many countries have squandered their human and natural resources and capabilities in grinding wars that have brought no benefits to anyone. Egypt took the initiative in calling for establishing peace. I do not want to bore you with much talk but want to tell you one thing, namely that Egypt opted for peace. We started with the October war because it was the key to peace. We started by embarking on negotiations. We got our territory back as a result of military power, negotiations, and international justice. But let no one ever think that your issues or rights will be brought to you on a silver platter while you are sitting down. Wars have never decided an issue. Wars might propel the peace process, help the peace process, or start the peace but they never decide anything.

We are helping the Palestinian issue as much as we can. We have exerted our efforts. I read a statement by someone about a week ago in which he said that Egypt is exerting pressure on the Palestinians. We are not exerting pressures on anyone or imposing a view on anybody. We are helping. We are contacting the United States and Israel. We are trying to remove the obstacles. There are daily demands and we are really helping them as much as we can. No country helps them more than Egypt and they know that. [applause] I tell you frankly that they do not deny this. They know that Egypt is their support in the Palestinian issue and we are exerting great efforts to resolve the issue. There are negotiations now. As to the current negotiations in the United States, whether with Syria or with the others, we should expect

that they will not proceed smoothly. There are obstacles. We did face obstacles. We faced mountains of problems. But through perseverance, continued proposals, and determination they will reach a solution. A year passed; self-determination and the issue might have been solved.

There is no doubt that stability and security in the Middle East is closely connected to stability and security in the Gulf region, the Arab Maghreb, and the Horn of Africa. In this context, our Arab and regional efforts expand to secure the circles around our Arab homeland from all sides.

While the restoration of confidence among the peoples of the Gulf states is one of the primary conditions for the restoration of stability and security in this region, the best way to achieve this objective is to respect legitimacy and UN resolutions and adherence to goodneighborly relations to safeguard the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of these states against the ambitions of others irrespective of who they are and what their claims are. The brotherly relations and agreement on common objectives and interests are the best guarantee for success of the efforts being made among the brothers in Morocco and Algeria to solve the Sahara problem in our Arab Maghreb.

A peaceful settlement of the differences between Libya and some Western states could strengthen stability in northern Africa and enable the fraternal Libyan people to enjoy security and peace and share in the process of development and reconstruction.

The time has come to dress the wounds of our brothers in Somalia to forge their unity and ensure their national interests. The time has also come for all the African people, particularly in the south, to enjoy stability, justice, freedom, and democracy.

Our Arab and African affiliation does not stand as an obstacle between us and our broad human and Islamic affiliation. We are following with sorrow the atrocities that are taking place among Muslim peoples in Europe, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which have shaken the consciences of the entire world. The time has come for the international community to shoulder its responsibility not only to safeguard the lives of these innocent people, but to safeguard the dignity of man and the sacredness of his life in the 20th century.

I discussed all these issues when I was in the United States and Europe. I said that we must find a solution to the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and not leave the Serbs to kill them. Some of our brothers in Sudan say that Egypt has abandoned Bosnia- Herzegovina to its fate. What? We abandoned it? Why should we abandon it? Why don't you assume responsibility? If we abandoned it, why don't you take over? It is like when people talk about the liberation of Jerusalem. Why don't you go to liberate Jerusalem? Why are you telling us about it? It is strange that people just want to throw problems us, and sit and watch. They give us advice, and we drown. That's it. We will not do that. [applause]

Our relations with the United States are good. U.S. aid to Egypt will not change this year, thank God. This requires an effort every year. Our relations with England, France, and Germany are good. These relations are very helpful to us, as they facilitate our requirements. Naturally, they benefit and we benefit also, but to a point that will not allow domination of our resources and decisionmaking under any circumstances.

As for our brothers in Sudan, I will not fight Sudan. It would be a scandal to say that I will fight Sudan. There are 4 or 5 million Sudanese people in Egypt. It has never crossed my mind to attack Sudan. When I said that I will hit Port Sudan, it was because the world was saying that there are foreign naval units there. If there were foreign naval units, I would hit the naval units. When Egypt's security is no joking matter. But I will not kill any Sudanese citizen. I have Sudanese people here. They have made a big story of the Hala'ib affair.

When the Salvation Revolution took place in Sudan, we extended help, which they cannot deny. We established an air bridge and transported food, medicine, and clothing. There was nothing we did not send. It was our Arab brothers who encouraged us to do so. I spoke to King Fahd on the phone in the presence of a member of the Revolution Council. King Fahd did not hesitate and asked what they needed. An air bridge was established from Saudi Arabia to send supplies. Kuwait also supplied them with oil, and the United Arab Emirates assisted them. Everyone helped. We did not intervene in this coup, nor did we intervene in any coup in Sudan before. We do not interfere in Sudan's internal affairs.

Recently, the Sudanese foreign minister was in Morocco and we heard a stunning statement that was attributed to him. There is an oil shortage in Sudan and the minister was cited as saying that Egypt has prevented two Sudan-bound oil tankers from passing through the Suez Canal. It was 0630 in the morning when I heard the news. Have we prevented oil tankers from passing? What I know is that any oil tanker that pays the due charges passes. I do not know what tankers pass through the canal. There is an agency in charge and it works according to standard business procedures. That morning, I asked Egyptian officials: Has anyone prevented a tanker from passing through the canal? They said: No, this never happened. I was shocked.

The Sudanese foreign minister arrived in Egypt. Our foreign minister asked him: What is this statement you made? He said: I did not say anything of the sort. Later, it transpired that some big shots [farawdah] there issued the statement and attributed it to the foreign minister. He did not make any such statement, nor did we prevent any tankers from passing in the Canal, nor do we intend to do so. If there is food on our table, we would share it with the Sudanese. We feel sorry for the Sudanese people. We say this frankly. We have between 4 and 5 million Sudanese living here. I see them everywhere and

I shake hands with them. They live in 'Abidin, Heliopolis, al-Sahil [Cairo neighborhoods] and everywhere. There is no hostility toward them. There are many Sudanese living here.

The oil tanker rumor ended. Sudanese officials want their people to believe that fuel prices have gone up because Egypt is blocking oil. We have not blocked oil. I do not want to go into details of their oil policy because it is in a shambles. [Mubarak chuckles]

Five days or a week ago they came up with another story. Egypt, they claimed, is in cahoots with [John] Garang or I do not know who else to stage a coup in Sudan. I swear to God, my brothers, we do not know anything about this matter. We are not and have never been involved in a coup in Sudan. They staged a whole theatrical show, talking about a warship transporting troops and 12 helicopters to land troops. An outrageous claim. When I heard this story I said to myself: Maybe something fishy is going on behind my back. [audience laughs] I thought maybe I was as ignorant as Sudanese officials are.

Let there be no doubt about this: We do not interfere in Sudanese domestic affairs at all. Once I heard these claims I was stunned and I investigated the matter. They claim Egypt is plotting against them. They have domestic problems and want to blame them on Egypt. We would not do anything to harm the Sudanese people and we have nothing to do with the Sudanese leadership. We are on the side of the Sudanese people. We are friends with the Sudanese people and any Sudanese who comes to see me I meet.

They are concerned about the Sudanese opposition. The Sudanese opposition has lived in Egypt for years, ever since [former Sudanese President Ja'far] Numayri's time. Opposition is everywhere. When Sudanese officials meet the Egyptian opposition we say nothing, nor do we get angry. What is this thing about the opposition? The opposition left the country to write articles abroad. What are we supposed to do about this? Is theirs the most perfect regime? The whole thing is strange.

They also got into the habit of moaning about the freedom or independence of Sudanese decisionmaking. I swear to you by God, my brothers, throughout the time of Numayri, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Siwar al-Dahab, [Hasan] al-Turabi, and ['Umar al-Bashir], we have not interfered in any Sudanese domestic matter. On the contrary, we used to take orders from them and answer their requests. We have never told them to do anything.

There was only one instance, which I will tell you about frankly and which they will hear me saying. It is the only instance. We were defending them all over Europe and Africa after this regime came to power. I went to the African summit where I was told that this regime was an extremist one. I told them: No, they are good people. I continued to defend them until I suddenly started to see indications appear under the name of the Islamic Front. Islam is abused by these people. What happened? Our people told al-Bashir: We believe that you have appointed around 30 persons from the Islamic Front. Make a variety so that people do not criticize us. We defended them with the English, French, Germans, and the Americans, everywhere. Why 30 from one front? Appoint one or two from somewhere else. In May 1990, we were at the summit in Baghdad. The brother colonel [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] called me and said: Come, brother Husni. Al-Bashir is complaining about you. Complaining about me? You are imposing on him which people to appoint. I told him: I? Let him not appoint them then. We have never told him: Here, choose different names. I was surprised. Then I met al-Bashir in the hall face to face. I told him: Has anyone asked you to appoint somebody? The colonel told me you are complaining about me. So why don't you tell me. He said: No, the colonel misunderstood me. [Laughter] The colonel misunderstood him! No. He understood him well.

We do not intervene or do anything. We treat the Sudanese people equally. There is no difference between this or that Sudanese. This ruling group has its own system and we do not interfere in its internal affairs. I reiterate and underline this: We have not and never will interfere. We have nothing to do with what this regime is claiming. It appears that it wants to incite the people against Egypt. I tell the Sudanese people: We have not done anything or known anything about the issue except from the regime's statements. It is reiterating them. They say that we want to stage a coup. Brothers, what do I want to stage a coup for? Were we behind it when al-Bashir staged his coup? Were we behind those before him who staged coups? We are with the government that is there. When a government deals badly with us, we go back to our lines. As to the Sudanese people, these citizens come here and we welcome them. There are no problems between us and the Sudanese people. We will not fight Sudan, no matter what they say. They say: We will fight to the last soldier. No. I do not fight. Even if Sudan attacks, I will not retaliate. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, we have made major efforts to rebuild a country that had to confront massive challenges—ones that burdened the homeland, obstructed its march, and alienated its true objectives. We have dreamed and hoped of building a country capable of bearing the burdens of the future, a country raising the flags of a just peace, a country whose people work cohesively for a better future, a country where all citizens are treated equally by the law, and a country in whose gardens the freedom of opinion and creativity can flourish

We have hoped to build a country for everybody, a united country that accepts all ideas and schools of thought, a country too great to allow contention and divisions, a country that rejects fanaticism and supports tolerance and dialogue. We have hoped to build a country with outstanding international status so that it can protect its interests in an increasingly disturbed world and maintain its role as a torch of light and civilization and a message of justice and peace.

We have worked more than we could to make the dream come true. We have struggled with all patience and resilience to turn peace into a firm edifice, relinquishing no rights, land, or dignity. We have moved mountains of obstacles and difficulties to develop the homeland, relying on the initiatives of its sons. We have endured more than we could to make true democratic practice triumph over empty, bombastic rhetoric.

We have faced Egypt's chronic problems with all courage. We have sought radical reforms to address the essence and root causes of the defects. We have prepared for Egypt the best and most appropriate circumstances in a rapidly changing world that hit many countries that failed to read the upcoming age right. We have been faithful in our sacrifices for the values of this great people—values that continued, throughout history, to build edifices of civilization for humanity. Our motive has been and remains a strong belief that God's pleasure and the homeland's glory represent the grand prize for those who carry out the mission honestly, those who fear God and let their conscience control their work. We have not been motivated by narrow interests, nor have we pursued the whims of the soul. We have viewed responsibility merely as a designation to serve the people and maintain their interests.

The heart is saddened by this confrontation—which is dictated by the higher interests of the homeland—against some young men who could have been backers of their religion and supporters of their country if they had used their minds, listened to advice, and realized the gravity of their role in a conspiracy designed to destroy the interests of their homeland.

We wanted, and still want, to save those youths who did injustice to their religion, country, and people. Egypt was, and will continue to be, the home of faith and peace, raising the banners of tolerant, virtuous Islam over its minarets—the Islam that builds and does not destroy, that renounces violence and advocates solidarity and cooperation to build a strong, united nation.

Brothers and sisters, my mission is as clear as daylight: nonstop work to serve Egypt and its people; candid and straightforward intentions; and a pledge to safeguard the interests of the homeland, relinquishing none of them, giving everybody his rights, supporting the principle of consultations, and opening the doors to every honorable, free opinion seeking the good of the homeland.

Brothers, Egypt is passing through a difficult test imposed by some wicked or misled wills that do not want this country to witness safety and progress. But Egypt will overcome its present difficulties as soon as possible. The face of terrorism will disappear and everybody will see the picture of the future Egypt. We have laid down the sound and strong foundations of development that no one will be able to stop. The boundaries between good and bad, right and wrong, are very clear; there is no room for ambiguity. Our greatest hope is that God will guide us along the right path, remove the screen from every sick eye that fails to distinguish vice from virtue, and help every confused, deviated, and misguided soul.

After this, let us continue our march of building and construction, building for the coming generations a country that can be justly proud, a towering country that closes the door to the winds of sedition, a country whose forces work collectively for a better future. God is the best backer and supporter, peace be upon you. [applause]

Mubarak Approves Execution Order of Fundamentalist

NC3004120893 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, April 30 (AFP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for the first time ordered the go-ahead for a death sentence issued recently by a military court against a Moslem fundamentalist, officials said Friday [30 April].

Hasan Shihatah Badran, 42, was sentenced on February 23 by the military tribunal in the northern port of Alexandria on a murder conviction. The measure by Mubarak, which officials said was taken Tuesday, means he could face imminent execution.

He was charged with killing a police officer in November who tried to arrest him and the attempted murder of another policeman.

Sixteen death sentences have been passed by Egypt's High Military Court, seven in absentia, but none has been carried out.

Mubarak, who doubles as "military governor," a function of the emergency laws in force since 1981, rejected requests to commute the death sentences of eight other militants, seven of whom are veterans of the war in Afghanistan.

He also turned down appeals to reduce the penalties of other fundamentalists involved in the same trial and who face sentences ranging from short jail terms to life with hard labor, the officials said.

To date, eight trials involving 107 militants have been referred to military tribunals, which generally make quicker rulings with harsher sentences than civilian courts. [passage omitted]

Musa on Efforts To Return Palestinian Deportees

NC3004140293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that President Husni Mubarak is giving special importance to securing the return of all Palestinian deportees of various organizations to their homes. He noted that Mubarak is following up on this issue and has held intensive contacts in the past few days. He said Mubarak sent a message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asking him to fulfill his promises.

Commenting on the Israeli decision to take back 30 deportees, Musa said Mubarak had received a message from Rabin on the decision to return the 30 deportees before Israel announced the news. He noted that the decision was conveyed to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Musa said Egypt will continue its contacts with Israel to emphasize the importance of following up on these positive measures to ease tension and build a measure of confidence between Israel and the Palestinians.

Repatriation of 'Militants' From Pakistan Sought

NC0205170393 Paris AFP in English 1603 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, May 2 (AFP)—A senior Egyptian Interior Ministry official was leaving Sunday for Pakistan to discuss with officials there the repatriation of 1,500 Egyptian militants who are Afghan war veterans and have settled in Peshawar.

Security sources said earlier that Egypt and Pakistan were discussing the repatriation of these Muslim fundamentalists who fought in the war in Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation and have since pulled back to Pakistan.

If Pakistan agrees to their expulsion, a delegation of Egyptian security officials will head for Islamabad to sign an agreement there on the operational aspects of their return, they said.

They said two alleged extremists who came back from the Pakistani border town of Peshawar and who were arrested Friday at Cairo Airport had provided important information on the Afghan veterans to Egyptian intelligence.

Ahmad Hasan Shihatah and al-Sa'id Muhammad Hasan, of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] movement, were captured on their arrival from Yemen with family members. They had started their journey in Pakistan.

"It is these extremists, mostly aged from 25 to 35, who finance and set up the terrorist operations carried out by Muslim fundamentalists in Egypt," a security source said of the Afghan veterans. "They regularly get orders from Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman."

He was referring to the al-Jama'ah's spiritual guide who has lived in self-exile in the United States since 1990.

The suspects arrested in connection with the World Trade Center bombing on February 26 worshipped at the New Jersey mosque where the cleric preaches.

Several news agencies recently received statements faxed from Peshawar in which the al-Jama'ah claimed attacks in Egypt that authorities have blamed on the fundamentalists.

The Egyptian press recently said it would be "difficult" to repatriate all the militants to Egypt, adding that many would seek refuge with the [Afghan] Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, rather than face arrest upon their return.

The daily AL-JUMHURIYAH on Sunday identified the al-Jama'ah's "emir" (leader) in Peshawar as Tal'at Yasin Hamam who was sentenced to death in absentia several years ago by a court in the Upper (southern) Egyptian town of Asyut, a fundamentalist stronghold.

Other Egyptian fundamentalist leaders in Pakistan include Ayman al-Zawahri and Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, brother of Khalid al-Islambuli, one of the late President Anwar al-Sadat's assassins in 1981.

A security source who declined to be identified said the 1,500 Afghan veterans were on a "wanted" list distributed to authorities at the country's various border posts, ports and airports. [passage omitted]

Government Denounces Killing of Sri Lankan President

NC0205191493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Egypt has denounced the vile attack in which the Sri Lankan president was killed, offered its heartfelt condolences to the Sri Lankan people and government, and expressed its hope that Sri Lanka soon will overcome this painful memory and enjoy a life of stability and prosperity. Egypt also denounced terror in all its forms.

This came in a statement issued tonight by the Foreign Ministry. The statement said that the Arab Republic of Egypt received with great shock the news of the assassination of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in a terrorist attack that also claimed the lives of innocent civilians.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Jadu University Students

LD2904220993

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 2003 GMT on 29 April begins broadcasting a recorded address by leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi to engineering students at Jadu University.

After boasting the merits of the educational system in Libya, Al-Qadhdhafi tells the students that the battle against colonialism is not over because colonialism comes in different forms and under various guises—political, cultural, economic, and military. The Libyan leader also rebukes his fellow countrymen for plunging headlong into the trap set by the consumer societies which creates unnecessary needs, focuses on the superfluous, and heightens the craving for luxury goods.

In this respect, Al-Qadhdhafi says that the Socialist countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet

Union were hoodwinked and led astray by the conspiracy of multiparty politics and the dream of a better life in a consumer society. As a result, Al-Qadhdhafi adds, millions of workers have been sacrified on the altar of reform and countries, such as Yugoslavia, have been torn apart by civil war.

Al-Qadhdhafi goes on to address the events taking place in the former Yugoslavia. He also claims that the situations in Egypt and Algeria, where fundamentalists are carrying out acts of terrorism, are the result of a Western plot to weaken and divide the Arab world and guarantee Israel's absolute superiority. The Libyan leader elaborates on the ills of multiparty politics in Algeria and criticizes the Berbers who, he says, are mistaken in alleging that they are not Arabs. He adds that Algeria, like Yugoslavia, has been torn apart by this conflict.

Al-Qadhdhafi then moves on to talk about the situation in Somalia, arguing that the bloodshed in that country was instigated and planned by Western powers. Al-Qadhdhafi likens multiparty politics to an "explosive toy" dropped by a child which blows up in his face. Al-Qadhdhafi urges the audience not to believe that the West is genuinely interested in bringing about peace in former Yugoslavia, because he says the tragedy in that country was caused by the same powers which are now pretending to seek a peaceful solution.

Al-Qadhdhafi then spends a few minutes talking about what he terms the mirage of the West, saying that all that glitters is not gold. He warns the audience about the temptation of consumer societies where everything has to be paid for, highlighting the dangers of advertising. He goes back to talk about the collapse of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the workers' predicament. He moves on to criticize Libyans living in large cities who are now following the latest fashions and are eager to own luxury goods. He describes this trend as a victory for colonialism, because the latter is intent on destroying local markets "with a different type of bomb," he says—namely by instilling in the minds of the Libyans the urge to buy anything that is foreign.

Al-Qadhdhafi continues by heavily criticizing the fundamentalists, particularly the Shiites, and attacks their presumptions and beliefs in very general terms.

Al-Qadhdhafi goes on to say that Libyans are free to have satellite dishes, but warns them that what they see is only a mirage and that should they decide to go to Britain, for example, they will definitely join the ranks of the unemployed. He illustrates the situation in the UK by announcing that Arthur Scargill, National Union of Mine Workers president, came to Libya a few years ago to obtain financial help from the General Union of Libyan Workers to bury the children of striking miners. He does not provide any further details on the matter.

The Libyan leader then talks about the 1986 U.S. raid on Tripoli and Benghazi, describing it as terrorism. Al-Qadhdhafi adds that now there is talk about imposing a blockade on Libyan oil and says that this is the more dangerous form of terrorism. He goes on to say that Libyans could decide to turn off the oil and live without it. He states: "They hit us with their bombs and then they continue to terrorize us. Now they are saying hand over your children; otherwise we will tighten the blockade and we will cut your oil. This is terrorism when they go on about oil. Even if they do not impose a blockade on oil—and let us suppose they do not do that—the fact that they are saying that oil will be included in the blockade is enough. What is this? This is the more dangerous form of terrorism against the Libyan people. Here starts our defiance. We can turn off our oil taps before they do it. Do you think that our life depends on oil and that if you turn off our oil we will hand over our children? No. If it comes to it, we will turn off our oil and we will live without oil for five thousand years. We will test ourselves. Even if half of us die, so be it; the remaining half will procreate and will become a people as they were before. So what? It is no big deal. It is now a matter of defiance."

ICO Resolution on NATO 'Aggression' Viewed

LD3004213693 Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, Al Tayer 30 [30 Apr], (JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY)—The 21st Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] issued a number of resolutions, strongly denouncing the foiled, American NATO barbaric aggression against the Great Jamahariyah in 1986.

The resolutions supported the Great Jamahariyah's demand for compensation for the human and material losses incurred by the Arab Libyan people as a result of this aggression. It confirmed the Arab Libyan right to demand compensation in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 41/38, which confirms the solidarity of the assembly.

The resolutions issued yesterday by the Islamic Conference Organisation reasserted the Great Jamahariyah's right to full compensation for the human and material losses incurred during the Italian colonialist occupation of Arab Libyan territory as well as the right of the Arab Libyan people to receive compensation for the damages resulting from the Second World War.

The resolutions also urged Italy to return all archaelogical treasures stolen from the Great Jamahariyah.

ICO Decision on Pilgrimage to Mecca Called 'Absurd'

LD0205161593 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 2 MAY 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Maa [May] 2, Jamahariyah News Agency—The final [word indistinct] of the 21st Islamic Conference, held in Karachi during the last couple of days, said that the conference decided to entrust its president and the secretary general of the Organisation

of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO], with the task of conducting "The necessary contacts with the appropriate organs to open airspace to Libyan airlines during the pilgrimage season, so as to enable the Libyan Arab people to go to the holy shrines and perform the pilgrimage freely and with dignity."

The decision was absurd to the point of ridicule for it attempts to legalise the principle of requiring the Muslim pilgrims to obtain permission from organs or individuals who have no links whatsoever with Islam. This is totally unacceptable, and in fact a heresy and religiously inadmissible, for no Muslim can go on pilgrimage subject to permission emanating from New York and due to the indulgence [word indistinct] Christian side.

Accordingly we wonder which dignity the conference decision is referring to if the aim is to subject any aircraft and [word indistinct] Arab-Libyan pilgrims to permission from New York and the approval of Christian countries to travel to Mecca.

This re-asserts the need to stress that Mecca should not be embroiled in international political intrigues. It should remain neutral (?and) open to all Muslims without requesting permission from anyone in fulfilling their religious duties and visiting the holy shrines.

Kuwait

30 April Gunfight on Iraqi Border reported

NC0205132693 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Kuwait City, May 2 (AFP)—Kuwaiti border guards returned fire after they came under attack from Iraqi border guards, but nobody was hurt, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reported Sunday [2 May].

Iraqi police at the Sanam al-Baqarah post fired 20 shots at the Umm Sudayrah post on the Kuwait side of the border late Friday, but nobody was hurt, the paper said. U.N. forces patrolling the demilitarized zone refused to comment on the report.

AL-ANBA' also said gunfights involving four Iraqi and Kuwaiti border posts took place on Thursday.

Assembly Speaker Reviews Meeting With Defense Minister

LD0105183893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 1 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 1 May (KUNA)—Shaykh Ali Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti defense minister and acting interior minister, has announced that a security agreement will be signed between Kuwait and Russia in August. Shaykh Ali added, in a statement to the press following his meeting with the committee in charge of the government program, which is chaired by National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Baqir, that the agreement will have a comprehensive character as far as a number of economic and political matters as well as understanding between the the governments and the peoples are concerned. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, Ahmad Baqir, chairman of the committee in charge of the government program, said that 80 percent of the country's military installations were destroyed during the brutal Iraqi occupation. Baqir quoted the defense minister, who met with the committee today, that there was no need to fear another aggression. Baqir disclosed that Kuwait will be during the next three months digging a 3-meter deep by 5-meter-wide trench along the whole borders with Iraq; it will be protected by a 4-meter high sand wall.

Baqir said that there was a proposal to lay 1.3 million mines, which the Iraqi regime had laid on Kuwaiti territory during the occupation. They will be reused under the fourth wall project, which Kuwait intends to implement in order to prevent infiltration into Kuwaiti territory. Baqir expected that the government would award the tender to five local companies this week.

Baqir indicated that the defense minister had drawn up its strategy regarding the percentage of "those whose nationality has not been established" and which is now put at 35 percent. This strategy is aimed at reducing this percentage to 0 over 10 years. He added that this strategy was part of the government program which includes granting permanent residence to some, naturalization to those who deserve it, and exposing those who hide their original passports. [passage omitted]

Baqir indicated that a large portion of the Defense Ministry budget, which had been allocated before the liberation and was estimated at 3.5 billion dinars, had been spent.

He added that a large part of this expenditure had gone on rebuilding the military establishment and its installations. Forty F-18 planes had been purchased at a cost of $400 million, and the presence of friendly forces costs $650 million. This is in addition to the purchase of British armored vehicles and Patriot missiles.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Deplores Terrorism Charges Against Iran

LD0205110893 Tehran IRNA in English 0827 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—A senior Saudi Arabian official Saturday termed as "unfounded fabrications and propaganda ploy" allegations on Iran's involvement in terrorist activities.

The Saudi Minister of Defence and Civil Aviation Prince Sultan Bib-'Abd-al-'Aziz made the remark in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Riyadh Mohammad 'Ali Hadi Najafabadi, Saturday [1 May].

The Saudi official further added that his country believed in the fact that Iran did not pose any threat to either the region or Saudi Arabia.

Underlining the deep Riyadh-Tehran historic and cultural relations, the Saudi minister described Iran "a fraternal, friendly country."

During the talks, the two sides also exchanged views on bilateral ties, regional issues and the need to provide facilities for the pilgrims in the forthcoming hajj rituals.

At a press conference a few months ago, Prince Sultan had also refuted as "baseless" Western propaganda over alleged threats posed by Iran.

"Despite propaganda of the West, no danger is threatening the region," he told the press.

Source Responds to Libyan Claims on Pilgrimage

LD0305004593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2345 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Riyadh 2 May (SPA)—In reply to what Libyan radio has said in its bulletins today, Sunday, 11 Shawal 1413 AH, corresponding to 2 May 1993, of repeated allegations accusing Saudi Arabia of stopping Libyan pilgrims from performing pilgrimage rites, a responsible source told SPA today: We are amazed; furthermore we

denounce the return of the Libyan media to repeating its lies against the Kingdom about an issue on which Saudi Arabia has previously explained its position in official statements before the 1412 AH pilgrimage, when it refuted Libyan allegations by the facts and documents that we will again summarize as follows:

First: Saudi Arabia has never stopped any Libyan or non-Libyan pilgrim from performing pilgrimage rites according to the quotas agreed and ratified by all Islamic countries. Second: It is well known to everybody that the UN Security Council on 31 March 1992 issued Resolution Number 748 imposing a ban on Libyan flights and all countries have adhered to the resolution since its issue.

When the Libyan Government asked for Saudi mediation with the international organization to allow its planes to transport Libyan pilgrims to the holy land, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, conducted the necessary contacts to fulfill the Libyan request of enabling Libyan pilgrims to reach Saudi Arabia.

The custodian of the two holy mosques instructed Saudi Airways to provide all necessary facilities for receiving Libyan planes and to inquire about their number and arrival times.

After informing the Libyan authorities about what had been done, the Saudi Government received from Libya, through its embassy in Tripoli, a cable of thanks for Saudi Arabia's sincere efforts in this matter.

A few days before the pilgrimage and after Saudi Arabia had obtained the agreement of the concerned authorities in a way which enables the arrival [word indistinct] last year, 1412 AH.

The Libyan media then launched a campaign accusing Saudi Arabia of stopping Libyan pilgrims from performing rites. At that time, we hastened to reply to those accusations as we said before.

In concluding his statement, the source said: We do not want to open the old pages which we have already closed, but we categorically reject these false accusations, which are addressed to us in spite of all the good efforts exerted by the Saudi Government and people for the comfort of the pilgrims and in order to enable them to perform their rites in safety, ease, and confidence, a matter to which millions of Muslims testify and are grateful.

After that, we would like to reiterate to the Libyan people our permanent welcome of their pilgrims this year and every year, just as we welcome hundreds of thousands of other pilgrims.

United Arab Emirates

Lebanese Prime Minister Meets Officials

JN0205083493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 1 May (WAKH)—Official talks were held here this evening between the United Arab Emirates side led by Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister, and the Lebanese side led by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

At the outset of the session, Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan welcomed the Lebanese prime minister, expressing hope that his visit will achieve its objectives and promote strong bilateral relations in all fields.

For his part, al-Hariri explained the national accord march in Lebanon, affirming that his government has taken a great step toward achieving this goal on the path of stability and security. He reviewed the reconstruction plans in Lebanon which the Lebanese Government intends to implement, so Lebanon can overcome the damage to the infrastructure as a result of war. Al-Hariri said that his country looks forward to the role which the Gulf states can play in support of Lebanon in this phase, particularly with regard to reconstruction, and also to the Arab brothers' contributions to that end. He added that the Lebanese Government provides facilities that serve joint interests and encourage investments and trade and economic exchanges.

The two sides also reviewed the current Arab developments, issues of mutual interest, the situation in southern Lebanon, and the efforts Lebanon is exerting to achieve Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territories. [passage omitted]

Confers With President

JN0205113593 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 2 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], this morning received Rafiq al-Hariri, Lebanese prime minister, who arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday evening.

Talks dealt with the assistance which the UAE can extend to Lebanon, particularly in the economic field, and the UAE contribution to the reconstruction of Lebanon's infrastructure. The two sides also reviewed current Arab developments, issues of mutual interest, the situation in southern Lebanon, and Lebanon's efforts to achieve Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territories.

During the meeting, the Lebanese prime minister said that his country looks forward to the role which the Gulf states can play in support of Lebanon in this phase, particularly with regard to reconstruction. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Commission Announces General People's Congress Victory

NC0105134193 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 1 May 93

[Report by Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Sanaa, May 1 (AFP)—President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's General People's Congress (GPC) swept to victory in Yemen's first general election since unification three years ago, the electoral commission announced Saturday [1 May].

But opposition parties charged fraud and ballot rigging in an election marred by violence.

The GPC won 121 seats out of 301 contested in Tuesday's election, followed by the Islamic party al-Islah with 62 and the GPC's junior coalition partner the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) with 56.

Independent candidates, some allied to the three main parties, secured 47 seats.

Other smaller political parties, notably the pro-Iraqi Ba'th, the Islamic party al-Haq and three Nasirite movements got 12 seats while three results were still to be declared.

In the worst election-related violence, the YSP claimed that 25 people died and 50 were wounded in a rocket attack on its offices in Hajjah by al-Islah militants late Thursday.

Al-Islah said Saturday said that YSP supporters opened fire on several of its members, including a son of the movement's leader, as they left the local electoral commission's office.

Al-Islah said two of Shaykh Hamid al-Ahmar's bodyguards were killed in the attack and two others wounded, but that no YSP members had been harmed.

YSP official Jarallah 'Umar however charged Thursday that al-Ahmar and his supporters carried out the rocket attack against their rivals, making off with the ballot boxes after the count showed the latter trailing a socialist candidate.

In Aden, authorities stepped in Wednesday to break up a protest by defeated candidates who were trying to demonstrate at the electoral commission's headquarters against what they said were irregularities.

Shaykh Muhammad Naji al-Sha'if, who is the son of an influential tribal leader and was elected to parliament, was ambushed some 150 kilometers (93 miles) northeast of Sanaa.

Gunmen targeted his car convoy late Wednesday and his men returned fire but four of them were killed in the exchange and four others were wounded.

Al-Sha'if, who had defeated a YSP candidate, accused that party of ordering the attack.

There were also widespread allegations of ballot rigging.

More than 3,600 candidates representing 21 parties or running as independents vied for the 301 seats.

The YSP and GPC have ruled this impoverished country on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula since unification of North and South Yemen in May 1990.

Officially, the electorate stands at 2.7 million Yemenis, including 500,000 women, from a population of 14 million. But some three million voting-age Yemenis did not register to cast their ballots.

Various local and foreign election observers said that despite charges of fraud and ballot rigging as well as violence and intimidation, the election results were valid.

The election commission said complaints could be submitted to the authorities in the coming days which will review them "later."

Yemen is only the second country on the Arabian peninsula, after Kuwait, to hold parliamentary elections.

More on Results

JN0205082093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] A news conference was held at the media center of the Higher Elections Committee at noon yesterday. It was attended by a number of the brother members of the Higher Elections Committee. [Words indistinct] head of the Higher Elections Committee, announced the final results of the sorting process in 298 constituencies. The results are as follows:

—The General People's Congress [GPC]: 121 seats.
—The Yemeni Reform Grouping: 62 seats.
—The Yemeni Socialist Party: 56 Seats.
—The independents: 47 seats.
—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party: 7 seats.
—The Right Party: 2 Seats.
—The Nasirite Popular Unionist Organization: 1 seat.
—The Nasirite Correction Organization: 1 seat.
—The (?United Democratic Front): 1 seat.

The Higher Elections Committee has declared the end of the sorting process [words indistinct] in (?Hablah) Governorate, where the GPC candidate has won. Meanwhile, the sorting process is continuing in [words indistinct] in al-Hudaydah Governorate.

An official spokesman for the Higher Elections Committee has stated that the sorting process in [words indistinct] and will be declared then. Meanwhile, elections in the constituency [word indistinct] in the al-Hudaydah city (?have been postponed) as a result of the incident which [words indistinct].

The Higher Elections Committee will meet today to continue discussions on the reports of the [word indistinct] committees in preparation for declaring the final results. It will also discuss a number of topics on its agenda.

Socialists Accept Vote

NC0205161793 Paris AFP in English 1515 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Sanaa, May 2 (AFP) - The Yemen Socialist Party Sunday [2 May] announced it accepted the results of the country's first multi-party parliamentary election despite charges of voting irregularities from some party members.

A spokesman for the party, which has shared power with the General People's Congress of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih since North and South Yemen were joined in May 1990, described Tuesday's elections as a "victory for democracy and the people" of Yemen.

Some Socialist Party members had charged voting irregularities and filed protests with Yemen's Supreme Court.

According to the country's election commission, the Socialist Party, which governed South Yemen before unification, won 56 of parliament's 301 seats.

The president's party obtained 121 seats and the Islamic party al-Islah secured 62.

It was the first multi-party parliamentary election in Yemen and the first on the Arabian Peninsula. A new government is to be formed in the coming days.

UN Team Discovers Nuclear Material at Site

NC0105182093 Paris AFP in English 1800 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 1 (AFP) - UN nuclear experts visited five sites in Iraq on Saturday in a mission to control and dismantle the country's nuclear capability, their team leader told reporters.

Richard Hooper said one group of the 14-member team visited "one of the state establishments," which he did not identify but said no banned material had been detected there.

The experts also visited the site at al-Tuwaythah 25 kilometers (16 miles) south of Baghdad, where Hooper said "we still have a lot of activities there related to nuclear material."

The site, which has been repeatedly visited by arms experts, was largely destroyed during the Gulf war in 1991 but the United Nations continues to conduct follow-up inspections.

Hooper, who arrived here Friday, said there was a fair amount of material but that it was under the control of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He said the visit to al-Tuwaythah was unrelated to the removal of 35 kilograms (77 pounds) of irradiated nuclear fuel locked and stored there and which are to be shipped out of Iraq.

The IAEA said Monday the fuel would "very probably" be shipped to Russia.

Hooper's team inspected the surface water at three sites and took samples to determine its radioactivity level. It will then establish a measure against which any renewal of nuclear activity can be detected.

On Friday, Hooper said 25 sites would be inspected during the week-long mission. He has been on 12 of the 19 nuclear inspection missions to Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war.

He said Iraq could still have a few centrifugal machines, which are used to produce enriched uranium to build atomic bombs, but that its current capability in the general enrichment area was dramatically reduced.

"It just allows them (Iraq) to maintain part of their capability," he said.

Fifty-six UN-sponsored missions have gone to Iraq since the end of the conflict, arranged by a special committee charged with overseeing the elimination of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

'Official Quarters' Ridicule Alleged Plan To Kill Bush

JN0205093693 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 1, INA—Official quarters in Baghdad yesterday ridiculed the Kuwaiti rulers' claims that Iraq sent to Kuwait a group to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush.

The quarters told Iraqi News Agency that Kuwait's sheikhs, being prepared to tell lies and distort facts, were widely expected to have fabricated such lies every now and then.

'Special Treatment' for Foreign Oil Firms Considered

NC0205191093 Paris AFP in English 1803 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 2 (AFP) - The Iraqi Government will give special treatment to foreign oil firms if they take action that results in ending the UN embargo, a parliamentary leader said Sunday.

"Those who take an initiative to lift the embargo will not be on the same footing with those who do not," Safa' al-'Umar, the chairman of the Iraqi parliament's international relations committee, told AFP.

Without going into any details, he said he was speaking not of a "privilege but special treatment" which would apply to American, French, Italian and any other oil companies.

According to the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES), published in Cyprus, Baghdad is negotiating with French firms Elf and Total, as well as with Italian firm ENI, to do business when the embargo is lifted.

The United Nations Security Council imposed wide-ranging sanctions on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

Kurdish Minister on Iranian Moves

NC3004173493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Peshmerga Affairs Minister Jabbar Farman 'Ali Akbar has confirmed reports that Iranian forces have entered Kurdish territory.

Answering a question by a KURDISTAN [word indistinct] newspaper correspondent, he said that following the recent Iranian concentrations on the border and the shelling of a number of Kurdish areas with artillery, the Iranian forces advanced 4 kms inside Kurdistan's border in the [word indistinct] area.

On means to confront this, the minister said: Despite the readiness of the peshmerga forces and the masses in Kurdistan to defend their borders with all available means, the use of diplomatic channels to tackle this issue

is still possible, particularly as the Iraqi opposition delegation is now in the United States.

The minister added: Despite our denunciation of this unjustifiable action, we still support the peaceful solution now being proposed between the government of Kurdistan and the Iranian Government.

Iranian Troops Reportedly Shell Kordish Bases

NC0105150593 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Ankara, May 1 (AFP) - The Iranian Army has pounded Iranian Kordish bases in northern Iraq and Iranian troops entered that border region, an Iraqi Kurdish source said Saturday by telephone from there.

The shelling killed and wounded several civilians in the regions of Qal'at-Dizah, Raniyah and Banjwin, the source said but gave no figures for the casualties and did not say when the attack occurred.

He said most of the villagers had been evacuated to other villages, adding that Iranian troops penetrated four kilometers (2.4 miles) into northern Iraq after the shelling.

There were no clashes between the Iranian troops and Iraqi Kurdish rebels.

Airspace 'Violations' Protested to Arab League

JN3004123293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League the continued facilities given by the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to the U.S., British, and French aircraft which continue to violate Iraqi airspace from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and threaten Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a memorandum he sent yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League said the aircraft continued their violations of Iraqi airspace and conducted 58 hostile sorties by flying from these bases [no dates given]. The Iraqi envoy included in his memorandum a table detailing these violations. He asked that the memorandum be distributed on the Arab League member states to inform them of these regrettable facts.

Arab League Informed of Growing Death Rate

JN0205135393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1148 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League of the direct impact of the continued unjust economic blockade on the health situation in Iraq, as well as increases in the death rate.

The Arab League General Secretariat has received an official memorandum from Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, detailing the increases in the death rate among children and the elderly because of the acute shortage of medicine and vaccines.

The Iraqi envoy asked that the memorandum be considered an official Arab League document and distributed to the Arab League member states.

The Iraqi mission to the Arab League distributed official documents to this effect to the Arab Human Rights Organization in Cairo, as well as other regional organizations.

SAIRI: 'Hundreds' Killed in Attack on Marshes 21 Apr

NC0205182593 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpt] Tehran, May 2 (AFP) - Iraqi Army forces destroyed several villages and killed hundreds of people in an April 21 attack in the southern marshlands, a key Iraqi Shiite Muslim opposition group said Sunday.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] said in a statement that Iraqi units using tanks, artillery batteries and bulldozers "attacked and flattened tens of villages near the marshlands, leaving behind hundreds of mutilated bodies.

"Residents of Nahr al-Hashiriyah, Salimiyah, Mashra'i, Maghribrah and Khazar have been mass-slaughtered and the residents of the nearby villages have been transported to unknown locations," the group said, quoting witnesses. [passage omitted]

Rabin Statement on Palestinian State Noted

JN3004090693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Occupied Palestine—In an interview with Radio London last night, the Israeli prime minister said for the first time that he recognizes the Palestinian people's legitimate right to demand the establishment of an independent Palestinian state of their own. Rabin explained that he personally opposes the idea, and said it should not be tied to the outcome of the current Middle East talks in Washington.

Rabin also said that Israel is prepared to consider relinquishing some territory in exchange for peace as a basis for a long-term settlement with the Palestinians. He, however, ruled out Israel's complete withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 and ruled out the possibility of changing the status of occupied Jerusalem.

Rabin added that the Middle East is now standing at a crossroads between a peaceful settlement and a stalemate that will lead to further violence.

Rabin on Avoiding Egyptian Peace Precedent in Talks

TA0205050993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Addressing representatives of French Jewish communities in Jerusalem last night, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that Israel was struggling to attain peace without repeating the precedent of the price of peace paid to Egypt.

[Begin Rabin recording] All we are trying to do today is to attain peace with the Arab countries—Syria, Jordan, Lebanon—and the Palestinians in the territories, without having to pay, under any circumstances, the price we paid in exchange for peace with Egypt. I am very sorry that a precedent was set whereby in exchange for peace we must give back all the territory we conquered in the Six-Day war, down to the last centimeter. In exchange for peace, Egypt received down to the last square centimeter of the Sinai Peninsula and demanded the uprooting of every Jewish settlement in the Sinai and the destruction of Yamit. We are struggling to secure peace without repeating the precedent of the price of peace with Egypt. [end recording]

The prime minister added that the negotiations with Syria have not been easy. His remarks were reported by our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad.

'Ashrawi's Inclusion in Talks, Progress With Syria Discussed

TA0205072493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 93 pp A1, 10

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Eytan Rabin, Gid'on Alon, and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpt] Israel is opposed to Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman for the Palestinian delegation, joining the subcommittee on human rights, whose establishment was agreed upon late last week in the Washington peace talks. 'Ashrawi lives in Ramallah but carries a Jerusalem ID card, which is why Israel is opposed to her joining the delegation.

By taking that stand, Israel stressed that its agreement to Faysal al-Husayni—who also bears a Jerusalem ID card—joining the talks does not constitute a precedent, which will permit other East Jerusalemites to join the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral and multilateral talks. Because Israel opposes having two members of the Palestine National Council participate in the multilateral working group on economic and water issues, there is a possibility that Israel will once again not attend these talks, scheduled to start in Rome and Oslo in the coming days.

The talks in the three working groups on self-government, lands and water, and human rights begin tomorrow as agreed upon in the talks with the Palestinian delegation. The second half of the 30 deportees, whose return was permitted prior to the resumption of the talks, also returns tomorrow.

A senior political source in Jerusalem said that Israel reached an understanding with the United States that East Jerusalem residents will be permitted to vote in elections but not permitted to be candidates. Israel is proposing that East Jerusalem Arabs vote in ballots in neighboring towns on the West Bank. Lately there have been behind the scenes contacts through U.S. mediation on elections in the territories.

A senior source said that the Palestinians are now ready to make do with a 70-member council while Israel is proposing a 30-member body. One of the ideas being considered in Jerusalem is that the council members will be able to chose between 10 and 20 members to conduct the peace talks with Israel.

A political source in Jerusalem noted that the government understands that the elections in the territories will not be able to take place under the aegis of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], therefore Israel will not oppose they take place under international auspices.

A report which arrived here from Washington said that in the last meeting with the Palestinians it was agreed that the working groups on lands and water, self-government, and human rights will try to draft documents that will summarize the points of agreement between the sides. Issues in dispute will be categorized

separately and will be left for discussion at a later stage. Israel intends to offer the Palestinians this week wider legislative powers for the autonomy council on all nonmilitary issues within the authority of the self-government. This time, Israel will offer the Palestinians control over planning and management of lands which comprise 60 percent of the West Bank territory.

Late last week it was reported that the Israeli delegation received the impression that there has been significant headway in the Syrian position on normalization between the two countries within the framework of a peace accord. Although the Syrian delegation did not say so specifically, the Israeli delegation believes it will be possible this time to agree on a joint document. The Syrians still insist on their version of Resolution 242, which refers to a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but head of delegation Muwaffaq al-'Alluf called on Israel to specify its expectations from the peace with Syria, which constitutes a new move in the Syrian position. [passage omitted]

Sarid on Including 'Ashrawi, PNC Members

TA0205072993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 May 93

[Telephone interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Ya'aqov Eylon and Ge'ula Even—live]

[Text] [Eylon] I suppose you have been following events in Washington, just as we have. I would like to begin by asking you: Has there been progress or not? How do you see it?

[Sarid] I think there has been a great deal of progress, and the situation is not at all what it used to be. The negotiations have taken a new form and content. I think there is room for a lot of optimism.

[Eylon] So let us talk about the form, which may have partially been affected by the inclusion of Faysal al-Husayni. Now there is a demand to include Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi in the committee dealing with human rights, and to include two Palestine National Council [PNC] members in the committees dealing with economic and water affairs. Should Israel persist in its opposition to these demands?

[Sarid] I suppose that just as a solution was found to include al-Husayni, a solution could also be found to include 'Ashrawi. We did not lose anything by including al-Husayni. Judging by all signs, albeit initial ones, he has left a rather positive and constructive imprint on the talks. As a rule, we think that negotiations should be held with the most prominent, decisive, and dominant figures. I think this is in the benefit of the negotiations, and anything that benefits the negotiations also benefits the State of Israel.

[Even] Nevertheless, the inclusion of al-Husayni in the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks was enabled by the fact that he has two addresses, while 'Ashrawi carries a Jerusalem identity card and her address is Jerusalem.

[Sarid] As I said before, an arrangement could also be found in her case as well. I suppose that just as an arrangement was found in al-Husayni's case, an arrangement in Ashrawi's case is not beyond reach either.

[Eylon] Sir, could you elaborate on what you mean by an arrangement?

[Sarid] I suppose that just as an arrangement involving two addresses was found in the past, a similar arrangement would not be impossible in the case of another figure. The goal is what counts, and it should be to include more central figures among the Palestinians in the territories and involve them in a more active and deeper manner in the negotiating process.

[Eylon] Does that include PNC members?

[Sarid] PNC is a very broad definition. We must check who the people involved are. At this point I do not know who they are or what is their record and involvement in the PLO's activities. As sooon as the record of these men has been checked, each one of us will definitely voice his opinion whether to include them or not.

[Eylon] Yosi Sarid, thank you very much.

Peres, Others Said Favoring Inclusion

TA0205191493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] [Announcer Ya'aqov Ahime'ir] The cabinet will continue the discussion of the newly resumed peace talks, which was launched at today's session, in three days' time. One week after the talks were resumed in Washington, the prime minister is satisfied with progress achieved with the Palestinian representatives. He believes preparations toward the establishment of a Palestinian police force—one of the spheres due to be handed over to the residents of the territories—can be launched.

It transpired at the cabinet meeting that several ministers are in favor of including PLO representatives in various peace talks frameworks. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports from the studio:

[Sukenik] The closure on the territories continues. So far, 25 percent of previously employed workers have been issued renewed work permits. This was reported at today's cabinet meeting.

The prime minister reviewed the progress—which exceeded expectations—achieved in the peace talks with the Palestinians a week after their resumption in Washington. Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed that Israel offered the Palestinians more than it had in the past, including the return of so-called old-time deportees, which is already under way. All this was done in a bid to inspire progress and bolster the Palestinian delegation.

Minister Yosi Sarid declared today: There will be no progress without the PLO. He proposed a formula for the gradual inclusion of the PLO in a manner that will give the Government of Israel time to digest the shift. Apparently, other ministers besides Sarid now support the inclusion of Palestine National Council [PNC] members in the peace talks. According to some ministers, even Shim'on Peres today implied something to this effect, although he did not elaborate. Peres also proposed holding elections in the territories as soon as possible, but Rabin and most of the other ministers were unenthusiastic.

Concerning the negotiations with the Syrians, Rabin reported that there has been no progress as yet. They insist on their demand for the entire Golan, and we insist on ours for genuine peace, he said. Sarid reiterated his proposal for an advance announcement of readiness to give up the Golan in return for genuine peace. The man who surprised today was Minister Moshe Shahal, who was heard saying at today's meeting that if forced to choose between the Golan Heights and genuine and stable peace, he will opt for peace.

[Ahime'ir] With regard to Jerusalem, a senior Israeli source denied tonight that in the Washington talks, Israel consented to discuss the issue of public services in East Jerusalem. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that Palestinian sources claimed they would be allowed to raise issues pertaining to the city's health and education systems in the framework of autonomy working groups, although the status of East Jerusalem or its incorporation in the Palestinian self-rule would not be discussed. The Palestinians contended that since East Jerusalem provides services to the other parts of the West Bank, the matter has to be addressed in the negotiations.

Egyptian Intervention Sought on Dispute

TA0305053093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 May 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] The Palestinians appear anxious to spoil the optimism of the Israeli Government. In yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting, satisfaction was expressed regarding progress with the Palestinians in the peace talks in Washington. Apparently the ministers, or at least some of them, were unaware of the fact that at the very same time, the Palestinians were trying to include members of the Palestine National Council [PNC], the PLO parliament, in the discussions of the multilateral committees. The committees in question are the regional economic development committee, scheduled to convene in Rome tomorrow, and the committee on refugees, scheduled to convene in Oslo in 10 days. The two PNC members mentioned are Yusuf Sayigh, who is to be included on one committee, and Dr. Ilyas Sanbar, to be included on the other.

In the past, Egypt had formulated a compromise proposal according to which the Palestinians, including representatives from the diaspora, could participate in all five committees of the multilaterals, including the sensitive arms control committee, on condition that they do not include PNC members. Until this compromise was worked out, Israel had boycotted the committee on refugees and the regional economic development committee.

Over the last few days, Israel has appealed to the United States and Egypt to foil the Palestinian intention. If the PNC representatives appear on the two committees, Israel will boycott those meetings.

On 9 May, Dr. Yosi Beilin, deputy foreign minister, will travel to Egypt, where he will discuss this issue, as well as bilateral issues.

Sarid Calls For Negotiations With PLO After 3 Years

TA0205163393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 May 93

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Today, the cabinet again held what has turned into its weekly discussion on the issue of the closure in the territories The ministers were told that 33,000 work permits had been issued to the Palestinian residents of the territories, as well as another 10,000 to 15,000 jobs in infrastructure projects currently in their preparatory stages. The Meretz faction ministers warned that this was not enough, since 70,000 Palestinian workers would remain unemployed. It is believed that the number of work permits will gradually increase and additional laborers will return to work in Israel after receiving security clearances.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres found himself in the minority against the prime minister and other cabinet members, who did not agree with Peres' suggestion to call early elections in the territories. In their opinion, such a step could hold up the peace talks in Washington or even give rise to a radical leadership, which would have a difficult time reaching an accord with Israel.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid made a long and extraordinary political dissertation today.

[Begin Sarid recording] I think that the negotiations in Washington got off on the right footing. I am very optimistic; however, I fear that without including the PLO sooner or later, it will be impossible to see the negotiations with the Palestinians through. The PLO was and remains the deciding factor, and the PLO will not accept any agreement that leaves it out in the cold on a permanent basis. With all due respect to the Palestinian delegation, they are more like messengers. They do not call the shots. If it were up to me, I would be negotiating with the PLO today; however, because I realize that this it is not the government's position, I propose the following formula which is, in my opinion, a prerequisite for the negotiations' success. The

formula stipulates that after three years, once negotiations begin over the permanent status in the territories, Israel will negotiate with every Palestinian element, including the PLO, which during the autonomy period will have proven its practical contribution to the process of reconciliation with Israel, to the eradication of terrorism, and to the establishment of trust and goodwill between the parties. [end recording]

Minister Ready To Cede Entire Golan for Peace

TA0205162593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Speaking at today's cabinet session, Police Minister Shahal said he will support ceding Israeli sovereignty over the entire Golan in the context of full peace with Syria. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that Shahal is the first Labor minister to have voiced this stand.

Some ministers voiced reservations about Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' position, which urges action toward elections in the territories. One of the arguments against elections was that they would stop the political process, since violence would accompany the elections and since a demand to hold elections at this time has not been put forward even by the Palestinians.

Shahal on Need To Test Peace With Syria

TA0305063193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 May 93

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning to Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning to you.

[Zissowitz] During yesterday's cabinet session, you said that in exchange for peace with Syria you are willing to implement a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

[Shahal] This is inaccurate. Let me explain what I said. My position, which is not new, is based on two assumptions. One, that it is impossible to reach a peace agreement unless Syria is partner to such an agreement. Anyone familiar with the Middle East arena from al-Sadat's days to the present knows that it is extremely difficult for Israel to reach arrangements with Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians without an arrangement with the Syrians. The second thing is that any arrangement with Syria must be different from previous arrangements in that Israel must pose conditions and receive a satisfactory answer regarding the substance of peace. The time factor is also of great importance in this context. The Syrians will have to present us with a peace that includes normal relations, economic ties, and an exchange of ambassadors. Now, I, at least, am referring to a period of 10-15 years, during which we will test this peace, and if it transpires that this is indeed a full peace, then an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, buttressed with security arrangements, is one of the few possible parameters.

[Zissowitz] Are you referring to full withdrawal?

[Shahal] Look, the debate regarding a full or partial withdrawal depends on what we are talking about. I think that this government is conducting the present talks with the Arabs better than any previous government that held talks with Arab countries and representatives. The question we want the Syrians to answer is: What kind of peace are they are talking about?

[Zissowitz] This is exactly the problem, Minister Shahal. Not only are the Syrians unwilling to enter the issue of the substance of peace, but only this morning we heard that the Syrian foreign minister and prime minister severely criticized Israel. Israel, on the other hand, is constantly stressing the concessions it is willing to make along the Syrian and Palestinian tracks. This is a very strange negotiation process.

[Shahal] First, I want to tell you that we should not be alarmed by declarations. The negotiation process is an art, and there are ups and downs; there are deliberate declarations and there are crises, because the other side needs this....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] We understand, Minister Shahal, that declarations are part of the negotiations. The question is: What wisdom is there in declarations, such as the one you made during yesterday's cabinet session or of the kind the foreign minister made last week to the effect that Israel is the giving party because only it has what to give, when at the same time the other side issues declarations on the difficulties posed by Israel?

[Shahal] My proposal, which is also that of the government, is an equation made up of two parts, and it calls for a Syrian answer regarding the substance of peace. We will treat the issue of withdrawal from the Golan Heights on the basis of their answer. Only if the Syrian concept of peace successfully stands a trial of many years—so that we can see that it is similar to the peace between European countries that were at war for many years—will we treat the issue of withdrawal. I do not believe there is any other formula. It is certainly preferable to the formula that brought al-Sadat from Egypt to Israel, when the Begin government told al-Sadat: Take everything; just come. We want the Syrians to tell us what they mean by peace. The Syrians told us they want full peace but without going into the details, and we do not know anything until we have learned what the Syrians mean by full peace.

Arab MK Details U.S., European, Arab Aid to Territories

TA0205173793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah says the United States is planning to grant $24

million in aid to the territories. This, he said, was the first stage of a much larger aid package now being considered by the United States, along with the EC and wealthy Arab states.

Darawshah, of the Arab Democratic Party, said he discussed the proposed aid in meetings in Washington last week with Martin Indyk, President Clinton's national security adviser on the Middle East, and other administration officials.

[Begin recording] [Darawshah] The Americans are planning to pass $24 million immediately to the occupied territories from the budget of the [United] States, but also they are working on a plan which will be a joint plan for the Americans, Europeans, and rich Arab countries, to make a plan in which they will invest big money in the occupied territories—in the West Bank and Gaza—to help the Palestinians, to improve their economy, and to find jobs for the worker, who does not find jobs now in Israel since the closure of the territories. He said that they will bring this plan to Rome when they will renew the multilateral negotiations very soon.

[Unidentified correspondent] MK Darawshah, did he tell you what types of funding, or what the $24 million would go for, and how soon he expected the money to reach the territories?

[Darawshah] He said that 10 million was assured for social issues in Gaza Strip, and 14 will be divided to the West Bank and Gaza for different projects. The 14 million will be used for new jobs. But, the big project that they are talking about—the Europeans, the Americans, and the Arabs—they are talking about big money, which will be invested in industry, services, housing, and other fields. [end recording]

Further Report

TA0205150993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] President Clinton's national security adviser, Martin Indyk, has said that the United States, European countries, and Gulf states are drafting an aid plan for the territories to be presented as the multilateral talks resume in Rome in a few weeks. Martin Indyk made this statement in a conversation with Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah in Washington.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Indyk further said the United States fears the closure is a time bomb that will affect the territories, Israel, and other countries in the region.

MK Darawshah adds that he was told in talks with administration leaders that the United States will not resume the dialogue with the PLO.

As for the deportee issue, he was told that everyone will return by December 1993. The first batch will include 101 deportees. Later, several dozen more will return after approval is given by the military review committees. Of the remaining deportees, those who had been expelled for one year, will return by September, while those who had been deported for two years, will return by December.

Deportees Greeted by Thousands at Allenby Bridge

TA3004141793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The first group of returned deportees comprising 15 people arrived at the passengers terminal on the Israeli side of the Allenby Bridge after undergoing checks at the Israeli border terminal. Approximately 5,000 Palestinians greeted them with great enthusiasm, carried them on the shoulders and chanted nationalistic songs. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Dr. Hanna Nasir, former president of Bi'r Zayt University, said that the returnees will be publicly active until a Palestinian state is established.

Nabil Sha'th Comments on Negotiations

TA3004134293 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Apr 93 pp 17, 18

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the PLO's Political Department, by Dan Avidan in Washington on 28 April]

[Text] [Avidan] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, what is your reaction to the Israeli Government's readiness to permit 30 veteran deportees to return to the territories?

[Sha'th] We expected to receive the list of 30 deportees on the first day of the peace talks' resumption. We were angry when things were held up for another day, but this is a positive development. This step is an indication of Israel's credibility concerning those steps that permitted the resumption of the peace process. There are additional steps that we hope Israel will implement as quickly as possible, today if possible, so we can continue the talks with an easy mind. These include upholding human rights in the territories and confidence building measures with regard to the Palestinian residents, such as issuing building licenses, permitting the reunification of 5,000 families, releasing security prisoners and administrative detainees and so forth. We also expect Israel to give us additional lists of veteran deportees that would be permitted to return to the territories. The more lists we get, the more we will receive the impression that Israel respects its commitments and behaves with credibility.

We demanded that as soon as the talks resumed, Israel would permit over 30 deportees to return to their homes. We demanded the return of 55 deportees. We are not happy with the fact that Israel dropped several important names off the list of 30, such as Akram Haniyah (the former editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-SHA'B, who was deported from the territories and

became 'Arafat's close adviser), and Muhammad Milhim, (the former mayor of Halhul who was deported in the 1970's and now serves on the PLO's Executive Committee). Nor is it acceptable to us that the list of 30 deportees only includes two residents of the Gaza Strip. That could cause problems. The faster Israel is in bringing back the deportees, the more credibility it will gain. This will eventually bring about a total halt to the policy of deportations. The deportations are as traumatic to the Palestinians as the Holocaust was for the Jews.

[Avidan] In other words, you welcome the return of the 30 deportees?

[Sha'th] Yes, this is a good sign. We also welcome Warren Christopher's statement in which he reiterated the negotiations' source of authority and its principles, which "eroded" toward the end of former President Bush's term. One should also welcome the inclusion of Faysal al-Husayni in the talks, and Prime Minister Rabin's statement in Ismailia on the applicability of Security Resolution 242 to the territories. All these factors helped facilitate our return to the negotiations and I hope that all these declarations will indeed be implemented.

[Avidan] Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi appeared to have some reservations about the return of the 30 veteran deportees to the territories. Is there a split in the Palestinian delegation?

[Sha'th] No. Haydar differentiates between territorial issues and those pertaining to the negotiations. He feels that he has responsibility for dealing with the substance of the negotiations while responsibility for all the other issues rests with Faysal al- Husayni and his people. Faysal has a heavier responsibility because he is chairman of the overall supervisory committee of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, as well as for ongoing contacts with the Americans and the Israelis in between the rounds of negotiations. Haydar remains head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral negotiations, that has not changed. The new element is that Faysal al-Husayni is now allowed to participate in the bilateral negotiations. He will also be permitted to participate in the multilaterals.

The importance of Faysal al-Husayni joining the negotiations is mainly symbolic since he is a Jerusalem leader involved in the peace talks from the start and was unjustifiably prevented from participating in the negotiations because Israel threatened to leave the talks if that happened. The Israeli Government has now grown used to the idea of Faysal al-Husayni's presence in the negotiations and that is very good. It will make dealing with the issues easier. The importance of this issue is mainly its symbolism. That also goes for me. I deal with the negotiations on a daily basis. If I am allowed to participate in the talks it will have a symbolic value because I have really been involved in the negotiations from the start.

[Avidan] Can you now foresee progress in the talks?

[Sha'th] I hope we make progress. We came with a readiness to consider what the Israeli side offers and we are ready to do so with a positive attitude on the condition that the Israeli terms conform to the groundwork that was laid for the negotiations from the outset. Up to now, the Israeli side has made unacceptable offers, such as dividing up the territories into settlements, state lands, and military areas where the autonomous institutions have no say. I hope that these proposals will change and we will be able to make progress.

[Avidan] Did the meeting between al-Asad and 'Arafat contribute to returning the Palestinians to the negotiations?

[Sha'th] The al-Asad-'Arafat meeting was an important component of the entire process which led to the Palestinian decision to return to the process.

[Avidan] Has 'Arafat become more flexible in his positions than the inhabitants of the territories?

[Sha'th] (smiling) In my view, Israeli decisionmakers always knew that 'Arafat has been the one to decide. It is he who decided that the Palestinians will participate in the Madrid conference and will later continue to negotiate. Had he not given his agreement, the Palestinians would not have been partners to the negotiations from the start. In reference to the hard-line of the inhabitants of the territories, that derives from the situation created by Prime Minister Rabin when he decided on the expulsion of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and because they take into account various elements which have an impact on them. In general, both the inhabitants of the territories and the PLO leadership have a commitment to the peace process. It mainly depends on 'Arafat. It is he who assures the continuation of the negotiations and the Palestinian commitment to stick to it.

In the final analysis, the Israeli Government will also talk with 'Arafat and that will ease the entire process. President al-Asad did not pressure 'Arafat into returning to the negotiations. Their meeting was very positive because al-Asad explained once again to 'Arafat that Syria is committed to achieving an overall settlement and that the Arabs will return to the negotiations with Israel or will boycott them only following a collective decision. These arrangements by al-Asad helped 'Arafat to decide on a Palestinian return to the negotiations.

10,000 More Palestinians Allowed To Work in Construction

TA3004160293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Excerpt] In a meeting held today between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben- Eli'ezer, and Labor and Social Welfare Minister Ora Namir it was decided to permit 10,000 Arab construction workers from the territories to work in Israel in addition to the 5,000 workers who have already received such permits. It was also decided to allow 2,000 foreign

workers to serve as building instructors in Israeli construction sites. The timetable for the implementation of these decisions has still not been fixed. [passage omitted]

Rabin: Arab Workers Over 25 Allowed in Country

TA0205063093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat believes that the closure of the territories should continue but, at the same time, more workers should be allowed to work in construction. Minister Shohat welcomed the prime minister's decision to increase the number of workers allowed to work in Israel to 15,000, but he thinks up to 25,000 permits should be issued. He categorically rejected the idea of importing foreign workers, and at the same time paying unemployment benefits to workers from the territories. [passage omitted]

The entry of thousands of workers from the territories into Israel will apparently be delayed a few days in view of the prime minister's decision to issue permits only to men over the age of 25 who are married and have children. David Lefler, director of the Employment Service, said the service's data bank contains the names of 15,000 workers from the territories who have been issued permits to work in Israel. According to Lefler, the Employment Service will now have to revise those names in view of the prime minister's decision, and this will take a few days.

Cabinet Discusses Closure, Work Permits

TA0205124493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The cabinet decided in its weekly session today to extend the closure of the territories. It was reported that up till now, 33,000 residents of the territories have received permits to work in Israel.

The cabinet was also briefed on the security checks everyone receiving a permit must undergo and the conditions for the issuance of these permits, such as minimum age, and the fact that the recipient must be married with children.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that the cabinet expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the peace talks in Washington and with the establishment of three subcommittees on the Palestinian track. The ministers received the impression that the prime minister and foreign minister differed with regard to the emphasis on elections in the territories, with Foreign Minister Peres according more importance to this issue. At the session, Prime Minister Rabin spoke of the importance of Syria's participation in the plans for regional cooperation.

Housing Minister on Closure

TA0205164293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The cabinet today decided to issue 33,000 entry permits to Palestinian workers from the territories that have passed security checks. The cabinet also decided to continue the closure on the territories. Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben- Eli'ezer this evening said that this would be the last measure to ease the closure.

[Begin Ben-Eli'ezer recording] We do not intend to lift the closure. The closure will remain in force. We will let very few people in. We agreed to permit the entry of approximately 15,000 construction workers. I do not know when this matter will be concluded; however, it is patently clear to me that not even one person will be allowed in beyond this number. I have not the slightest doubt that sooner or later, the entry of a worker from the territories—from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—into Israel, will be considered the same as that of a Thai worker. No foreigner without a license will be permitted to enter. [end recording]

Hamas Squad Which Threatened 'Urayqat Uncovered in Jericho

TA3004131493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The security forces have uncovered a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad in Jericho and have detained five of its members. An Army source told our correspondent Moti Amir that the five are suspected of having threatened the lives of Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation, and his family. They broke into 'Urayqat's home, caused damage, and threatened to harm his family if he attends the ninth round of peace talks in Washington.

PFLP Commander in Northern Gaza Strip Apprehended

TA3004155593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] One of the three wanted men who were caught in Bayt Hanun early this morning is suspected of involvement in the murder of Yehuda Gawi in the settlement of Nisanit approximately one month ago. The three fugitives belong to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]; one of them is the PFLP commander in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. Three accomplices were also apprehended with them.

IDF Soldier Killed in South Lebanon Explosion

TA0105122193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Yuval Ratig, an 18-year-old IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier from Kefar Azar, was killed in the Beaufort Hill area in south Lebanon last night when a

roadside bomb exploded near an IDF force operating in the eastern sector of the security zone.

King Husayn on Peace Process, Iraq, U.S. Ties

JN0205091693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 May 93 p 11

["Full text" of King Husayn's interview with REUTERS/REUTERS Television on 29 April—place not given]

[Text] Question: On Sunday Jordan will celebrate your 40th ascension to the throne. You've seen a lot of milestones in that time but what would you say is your biggest achievement and your greatest regret?

Answer: My biggest achievement has been to give the people of Jordan regardless of their origins what they have enjoyed in the recent times and I hope they will enjoy all the years to come in terms of what is their right on sharing and shaping their future and democracy and growing and greater respect for human rights and, I hope, pluralism as it evolves in the years to come. A feeling of pride despite difficulties and challenges. What they are, what they represent, and, I hope, that they will be able to...themselves (provide) the kind of example that hopefully others will look at in the entire region to ensure its stability in the times to come and to ensure that the future is the bright one that we seek.

We are obviously involved now in the peace process. It has never appeared to be a very easy process but one hopes that the possibility will be there to finally address the root cause of instability in this entire region and to give all its people a chance to move away from (violence). So many years have passed, including the past 40 years; as far as I was concerned (I want) the kind of peace that future generations can keep, protect and preserve.

Q: And your biggest regret looking back?

A: Regret? I honestly can't pinpoint any situation where given the circumstances I had to deal with I could have done anything differently. But no decision was ever taken hurriedly or without consideration. Every decision came as a result of a lot of thought and soul-searching. However, the transition was made into the kind of life that I hope will be...the promise of Jordan for the region where people share in making decisions.

Q: You've said that before you took the throne you hated the thought of becoming King and wanted to have a normal life. Has the job grown on you in this past 40 years?

A: I don't know that it can ever grow on one but I've felt throughout these past years like an ordinary person who has been trying his best with a large family and within the context of this family to achieve our hopes and aspirations or at least move ahead during this lifespan which has extended so far to achieve some of our foundations, the foundations for a better future.

Q: Jordan has made perhaps the most progress in peace talks with Israel. Apart from a final settlement which you have said would need an overall solution to the Middle East problem do you think Jordan and Israel will reach a final agreement this year?

A: I honestly don't know and I know that the obstacles are great but when we decided to go to the Madrid conference and by extension everything else that's happened since that was a decision that was taken consciously by all of us after a meeting here where we studied all our options and it was a national decision.

I think there is a growing feeling on both sides of the divide that this is our chance and we must take it to remove the root cause of instability in this entire region once and for all...so many who have not always necessarily been interested in the betterment of people and conditions in this region...

There is a realisation that time is short and there may not be another chance. There wouldn't be another chance in fact. So one hopes that we will find a solution that gives the Palestinians...and all participants and all involved parties the kind of future that will give them hope and limitless opportunities.

Q: How significant is the Israeli move to allow back Palestinian exiles?

A: I suppose it is a good beginning to say the least. But I can't add any more to that. Palestinians have suffered so much over so many years and they have so many rights that I hope will be recognised.

Q: Are you more encouraged by the more active role that Washington is taking in the talks?

A: I am encouraged and hopefully convinced that Washington is determined to do all it can with new spirit and new determination to help all concerned move towards the kind of solution that generations after can live with and can accept and protect.

I don't know what "full partner" means but we have seen encouraging signs so far.

Q: If we could turn to Iraq. Many people still see it as a potentially destabilising factor in this region. What role do you see for Iraq and for (president) Saddam Husayn?

A: I have always tried to move away from personalising the issues but on the other hand Iraq is important as far as I am concerned. If you ask what I wish for Iraq I wish for it to remain together. It's integrity is important but beyond that I wish for it national reconciliation, real movement towards democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights and hopefully an end to this nightmare of suffering of the Iraqi people themselves where it can regain its important (role) in the region.

Q: You'll apparently be seeing President Clinton next month. Will you raise this issue with him? Will you ask him to lift sanctions on Iraq?

A: I look forward to my first meeting with the president when he is ready to receive me. I have a visit to the United States in a month's time or just over that for my regular six-month checkup. I look forward to meeting him very very much and I hope it gives us an opportunity to get to know each other and I will certainly do everything I can to give him a clear and honest picture of the region that he deserves in the position of enormous responsibility that the United States has.

Q: Do you think there is a growing feeling among Arab leaders and among the West that Saddam Husayn is someone that they can live with?

A: Once again I care and care very deeply for the people of Iraq and I have made it abundantly clear myself time and again that if I ever were an obstacle to Jordan and its progress I wouldn't think twice about it. The people of Jordan would be more important. I can't say that this approach to life is shared by many in this region but I think that what is important as far as Iraq (is concerned) is the Iraqi people.

Q: I'm sure you're tired of this question but you've mentioned on occasions you've felt the desire to hand over responsibility to someone else. Is that still a possibility?

A: The duties I have are such to prepare the ground for a more stable progressive Jordan in the future and to make whatever decisions I deem right at that time and see how it goes.

Q: Do you feel democracy now is at the stage it should be at in Jordan?

A: Yes I feel it is despite enormous difficulties, suspicions, hostility by some in the region to the very concept. But it has to happen, it is going to happen everywhere sooner or later.

The clock cannot be turned nor can we have a situation where people are denied their basic rights and, thank God, here in Jordan these rights were given because we believed in them and recognised them as such and I would hope certainly that our other brethren in the Arab World can look at this example as a serious and wordly one to look at in terms of shaping the future.

Q: There seem to be people in Jordan who fear democracy, who worry that the Jordan they know will become fundamentally different. Is democracy irreversible now?

A: I believe it is irreversible and obviously there is a danger that democracy will be threatened by democracy but I don't think this will happen here and my efforts will go towards sharing with Jordanians what I believe is the experience that we've been through in the times ahead to see what went right and where we went wrong if we did and to really stress on the individual on the voter in the times ahead for these elections... the responsibility he has towards himself, towards his country and beyond that to the region itself.

Q: Do you ever worry about the enormous outpouring of affection that Jordanians have for you. (The fact that) you go beyond being just their leader?

A: To tell you the truth I never thought of it in these terms. I always thought of it...I prayed for a long time (that) after I'm gone when people would say he was a good fellow and he did his best and hopefully judge me well. But I have been blessed in my life to be surrounded by such warmth and affection that no matter what I do for whatever remains of life or several lifetimes would not be enough to express my feelings to my people of pride in belonging to them and of love.

Q: What has happened to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Why has reconciliation not happened?

A: It hasn't happened (not) due to any lack of attempt by us to reestablish relations on the basis of mutual respect and trust and confidence.

Anyway as far as Kuwait I'm not even going to comment about that. As far as Saudi Arabia is concerned I still hope that there will come a time that if there are any shadows of doubt regarding the sincerity and sense of responsibility that (in the) course we took in trying to avert a disaster in this region and reverse an unfortunate happening peacefully that there was any other motive. There wasn't, except for the interests of the area and its people. I hope that this will be realised sooner or later and then I'm sure that things will go back to what they should be.

Q: Are there still efforts going on?

A: We've made it very clear that we will take two steps to meet anyone who takes a step toward us but we are not going to do anything beyond that.

Q: Do you still expect to hold elections in November?

A: Hopefully around November, yes.

Q: Will it be "one man, one vote"?

A: This is still under consideration. Whether a change to the election law...whatever will enable Jordan to move further.

Q: What do you see as the future of the monarchy in Jordan and in this region?

A: As far as I'm concerned I belong with pride to the house of Hashim and I've always felt that my duty in life has been to ensure that I've been above differences. I've considered myself a unifying factor for my country and beyond. I did everything I could for others because already in life one had been honoured to receive a position far more important than any material or physical one in terms of allocation in government or even as head of a state so there was nothing to search for beyond that except to do one's best and live honestly with oneself and to serve people to the best of one's abilities and maybe if there is a need this will continue to be the case as far as this family is concerned.

But the main thrust is to try to build with Jordanians and regardless of their origins this country to be a beacon in this area to be a source of hope for others.

Q: Many people here think that Islam is under threat in this region. What do you see as the future of Islam and what brand of Islam do you think will be around in the next five/ten years?

A: I get extremely irritated when people try to portray Islam the way it sometimes is seen as a result of the acts of ignorance or extremism that is very alien to what Islam truly is. As a Muslim I feel urged to do whatever I can to correct misconceptions of what Islam is in regard to its image and the world as a whole. I think as far as Jordan is concerned it will continue to operate to be an example outside to how we live here in this country together members of one family, regard less of our religious beliefs. And I hope that Islam will illuminate itself and the rest of the world in time when it is truly seen for what it really is—one of the most productive, dynamic, forward reaching religions... and remove any of the misconceptions that may be the heritage of the past or the work of the present in terms of reactions to actions or whatever be the reason.

Q: Do you think the misconceptions that existed about Jordan have been removed in the West?

A: I think yes; we have gone a long way and I think that in time this will happen inevitably the other way.

Q: How would you describe your relations with the United States now? Are they completely back to normal?

A: I believe they are very strong and very very promising and in any event if they had suffered I have every hope that they will resume their warmth and their strength based on again mutual respect and respect for principles and ideas...in common.

Q: You've just come back from London recently. Have the wounds of the Gulf war in terms of Jordan's relations with Europe been smoothed over?

A: I believe they have yes.

Second Group of Deportees Leaves for West Bank

JN0305113493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in English 1100 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] The former mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Rawhi al-Khatib, and 13 other Palestinian deportees and their families have left Amman for the occupied West Bank, ending years of exile after Israel agreed to allow their return. They are the second group of deportees to be allowed back home since being banished after 1967. Fifteen other Palestinians returned to the occupied territories last Friday.

Foreign Minister Returns From ICO Meeting

JN0105121093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 May 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir returned to Amman from Pakistan today after heading the Jordanian delegation to the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference which was held in Karachi. [passage omitted]

Special Commission on Human Rights Arrives

JN3004122393 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Members of a special commission in charge of investigating Israeli human rights violations in the occupied territories have arrived in Amman. The members of the commission will meet the director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry. They will be briefed on the prevailing unbearable conditions of Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands. They will also be informed of arbitrary Israeli practices, curfews, and unjustified killings that led to hundreds of deaths and injuries.

Israel has so far refused entry of the commission members into the occupied Arab lands.

Buwayz Comments on Current Peace Negotiations

NC0205102793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that unless tangible progress is made in the current round of peace negotiations, it will be difficult to adopt a decision to participate in a 10th round. If the current round does not succeed, the future of the negotiations will be in jeopardy. He added that the ninth round is not bound by a time limit, and sufficient time could be given for the formation of executive committees. He continued: The United States insisted that Israel recognize the comprehensiveness of the solution and the Israeli prime minister accepted this. Consequently, the conference entered a new phase, prompting some to stop their attempts to secure separate solutions.

In a radio interview, Buwayz said: The Lebanese delegation is supplied with clear instructions that manifest Lebanon's intention to deal positively with the issues within the framework of Lebanese principles, constants, and convictions. When Israel accepts the principle of complete withdrawal from Lebanese territory, we will have no objection to the formation of a military committee that will study the timetable and ramifications of such a withdrawal and draw the appropriate solutions.

Fadlallah Says Solution Depends on Mideast Settlement

NC0205061693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that a solution to the Lebanese problem is imminent, because settling the problem of the displaced people means an end to the Lebanese problem. He noted that the serious handling of the issue of the displaced people and their return to their villages indicate that Lebanon will restore its unity one way or another.

In an interview with the Voice of the Mountain, Fadlallah said that talking about pluralism in Lebanon is not realistic, because in view of the current international outlook on the region, pluralism has no opportunity for survival. He noted the complications related to the issue of the displaced people, who may not be reassured about the political situation.

Fadlallah said that the Lebanese Government came to prevent the deterioration but not to lay down foundations. He said that the government came to manage rather than resolve the crisis. He said: I believe that the government has succeeded in doing this or certain sides wanted it to succeed. As for the difficulties awaiting the government, everyone knows that the factors of success are not available and that everything is waiting for a solution to the Middle East crisis.

Hizballah Radio Comments on Deportees' Return

NC0205175093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 May 93

[Political commentary]

[Text] Fifteen out of 30 Palestinian deportees returned to the occupied land yesterday. The agreement on their return was reached between the PLO leadership in Tunis and the negotiating Palestinian delegation on the one hand and the Zionist enemy government on the other and under the auspices of the full partner, the United States. The agreement was reached in order to bypass the issue of the 400 deportees who are still marooned in the valley of scorpions in south Lebanon and to resume the settlement process. The Zionists say that the goal of this process is to consolidate the position of the 'Arafat-led moderate PLO against those who criticize its negotiating approach in the occupied land. PLO spokesman Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has affirmed this view. He believes that this decision will support what he calls the peaceful process.

Before commenting on this issue, we would like to make it clear that we are absolutely not opposed to the return of any person to his home and family. We respect the tears that fell at family reunions after a lengthy separation forced by the occupation authorities. At the same time, however, we would like to put the following remarks on record:

1. This tactical return is aimed at serving the Zionist plan and is incompatible with the aspirations of the returnees themselves, because this step is not in the right direction.

2. This measure does not give hope to millions of Palestinians who were forced out of their homes in 1948 and 1967 and still have their keys and title deeds.

3. This return is a small piece of bait offered by the enemy authorities to PLO executives to disregard and nullify Security Council Resolution No. 799 themselves. The sons of our oppressed people know that while it might be understood and clear that the Zionist enemy has not and will not have mercy on us and seeks to uproot all Palestinians from their land and displace them elsewhere so that Palestine will be completely in the hands of Zionists and they can build their artificial entity, it is absolutely not accepted or justified for individuals who claim to represent the Palestinian people or to belong to them to contribute to implementing this ugly crime for cheap personal gains.

If negotiations under the existence of Security Council Resolution 799, the ink of which has not yet dried, has resulted in conceding 90 percent of the required number—allowing only 30 out of 400 deportees to return—what is the proportion of rights the Palestinian people will regain through these negotiations, particularly as there are no clear Security Council documents in this respect? If there are such texts, they have become obsolete.

Israeli Troops Shell Deportees at Checkpoint

NC0105082693 Paris AFP in English 0750 GMT 1 May 93

[Excerpt] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, May 1 (AFP)—Israeli troops fired shells near Palestinian deportees as they spent a fifth night Friday camped out in front of an Israeli army checkpoint in south Lebanon, without causing casualties.

Four shells exploded 700 meters (yards) from the 396 deportees near the Zummarayya checkpoint, at the entrance to the "security zone" to protest at the return of Palestinian negotiators to talks with Israel, an AFP correspondent reported Saturday. [passage omitted]

Deportees End Protest

NC0205091993 Paris AFP in English 0755 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, May 2 (AFP)—The Palestinian deportees on Sunday started returning to their tents in no man's land after spending a sixth and rainy night camped in protest at an Israeli army checkpoint.

The 396 Palestinians on Monday walked to the Zummarayya checkpoint, which guards the entrance to Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon, to protest four months in exile and the restart of Middle East peace talks.

By Sunday morning most had walked the two kilometers (one mile) back to their tent encampment at Marj al-Zuhur taking with them soaked mattresses and blankets.

Israel deported 415 Palestinians to south Lebanon on December 17 for alleged links to Muslim extremist groups that killed Israeli soldiers.

Spokesman Warns of 'Civil War'

JN0205203093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the struggler—God willing, returning—deportees has warned about the breakout of a Palestinian civil war that the Zionists are out to ignite. Quoted after the struggler deportees ended an overnight sit-in opposite Zumrayya checkpoint, he said: At 0400 today, we made a decision that the deportees, whose health had suffered, were to return to the camp immediately. We then made the decision to end the sit-in at a press conference held at 0900 on the same site.

Commenting on the so-called steps of good faith, Dr. al-Rantisi said that had there been good faith, those who are facing death in the open in southern Lebanon would have been returned. The steps taken by the Zionists to ease part of the suffering by the Palestinian Arab people are merely well thought-out steps seeking to advance certain future objectives to the detriment of the cause of the deportees and the cause of the Palestinian people.

Commenting on Hanan 'Ashrawi's statement, al-Rantisi said it was made against the background of a major Palestinian retreat. The Palestinian deportees will consider their next protest action and announce it in good time, al-Rantisi said.

Hizballah Offers Prisoner Exchange, Denies Holding Ron Arad

NC0105064993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Regarding the Zionist media comments on the issue of prisoners and detainees, a responsible Hizballah source has stated the following: These comments are all based on holding us responsible for obstructing any solution to this issue. We would like to explain to the public and to our people that the Zionist and Lahdist [South Lebanese Army] prisoners in our hands are not a means for achieving political and media gains. Our aim behind holding them is to work to secure the freedom of mujahidin held in the enemy's prisons. This is a purely humanitarian issue at a time when the enemy is not observing the minimum of values and principles through which the rights of the detainees and prisoners are respected.

The responsible Hizballah source added: We have made and continue to make sincere efforts to find a just solution for this humanitarian issue. We have responded to all efforts made in this direction. However, we have always been confronted by the Israeli demand for the release of Israeli navigator Ron Arad. We have stressed on several occasions that we do not hold him and we do not have any information about him.

The responsible source said: The so-called Ron Arad issue is an indication that the enemy treats this issue from the perspective of searching for political and media gains. While we and all our people aspire to see our brothers and sons the mujahidin return to us liberated, we declare our readiness at any moment to carry out a swap of prisoners for humanitarian reasons and on the basis of the prisoners we hold. As for demanding that we deliver what we do not possess, this is an aberration of a logical solution.

'Ubayd Views Aspects of Prisoner Exchange

NC3004115593 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0845 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Third part of an interview with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd by an unidentified correspondent; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Until now I have been asking you questions that you have kindly answered. Now I would like to give you the opportunity to say whatever you wish to you family. Is there anything you want to tell your family, your children, your little daughter?

['Ubayd] Is this permission confined to my family and children, or is it more general?

[Correspondent] You are free to say anything you want.

['Ubayd] Naturally I would like to thank whoever arranged this interview, for it gave me the chance to let my family, my parents, my wife and children, my brothers and sisters, and my relatives know how I am. It does not matter if I am a hostage or a prisoner. I am in good health and my condition so far is normal. Praise be to God, I am still in good mental and physical shape. I do not suffer from any serious malaise other than the fact that my psychological condition is that of a man who is away from his family and his little children, and this is a painful situation that takes its toll.

My condition is probably similar to many prisoners, whether brothers and friends or foes. Regardless of who is a friend or foe, a humanitarian issue is involved for those in captivity. Friends and foes are human. Whenever a human being is taken prisoner, the same humanitarian issue arises.

Concerning captivity, the Koran calls for either generosity or ransom [from a Koranic verse]. In other words, you either take ransom to release a hostage or you grant him freedom and say: Go, you are free. This is my understanding. I wish to reassure my family about myself. I hope they are all in good health and coping somehow with this situation. Our history is full of stories of people who were imprisoned and expelled from their homes. We have to learn from the example of our good forebears. This is our destiny. Nor does anyone know what it is that he will earn on the morrow; nor does anyone know in what land he is to die. [from a Koranic verse] This is the fate of many in every time and place.

My other message is to the brothers and anyone having a power to resolve this issue. Everyone—brothers, friends, and foes alike—like to talk of humanitarian considerations. But in reality, this is mere talk.

All this proved to be mere talk. My words are addressed first to the countries that raise the banners of democracy and freedom, then the West, and the United States in particular. As I have stated before, I am against hostage-taking and the kidnapping of hostages, foreigners or not, that is, Muslims or others. They [the United States and the West] tried, mobilizing all their media, political, and, perhaps in some cases, military capabilities to free the hostages; worked hard—even presidents got involved and in some cases relations were severed or restored; and took major steps for the sake of perhaps one, two, or 10 people. The number does not matter; one human being is as good as 10. Killing one innocent person unjustifiably is like killing all people. So they carried these banners. The question to ask them is: Why was there silence once the hostage or Westerners' issue ended? This silence is suspicious; it leads to suspicions that they had selfish motives. When their interest was finished, everything stopped. This is not democracy or freedom. It's like the poet who said: He threw him into the sea and told him never get wet. This is not democracy or freedom, but self-interest. Once self-interest is fulfilled, one may or may not think of others. In the Gulf war and many other wars in which thousands of POW's were taken, exchanges took place. No prisoner exchange has taken place this time. These words go to the West, the patrons of freedom and democracy, to continue the march, if they are true to themselves.

[Correspondent] Would you like the United States to display an interest and act to secure your release?

['Ubayd] I regret the question, because when the Western hostages were in captivity or at other times, such as the Gulf war, when Saddam was an issue, or when it came to deterring someone, nobody told the United States or others what to do. If someone believes this is correct and a duty, he does not need people to tell him to perform his duty. If it is a duty, he must perform it without me or anyone else telling him. The issue is humanitarian, which needs humanitarian action by everyone, including those who raise the banners of democracy. This is why the United States and others are required ... [changes thought] I say it frankly: I am not begging or trying to gain sympathy. I am not saying: Please, if you would, or I am in such a psychological state, release me. No. This is their duty and it is for history, not for me or anyone else. It is a historical issue. It will go down in history that some people sought to secure the release of others with whom they were connected by personal interests and when these interests were fulfilled, they stopped right there.

Frankly, this is addressed to those who hold the Israeli navigator and prisoners. I am addressing all the brothers in Lebanon, senior or junior officials. As far as I am concerned, there is no difference between them. I tell them I was kidnapped and have been held prisoner for over three years.

I read in the papers that hundreds of prisoners are held in Israel's jails. I also read that 250 prisoners are held in al- Khiyam Prison. Naturally, not all the prisoners are like me. First, I am a shaykh with his own specific concepts and status. The circumstances of the other prisoners—young or old—are different. It is not enough to make press statements or to establish committees to study the detainees' conditions. And it is not enough to make statements opposing this or supporting that.

It has been confirmed that all the media campaigns are words on paper. I am not implying that I am addressing the media men because their work is fruitless. Their work is fruitful. Any statement by a media official without translating it as serious and productive work, is, as we said, irresponsible talk. We should not debate the definition of a prisoner or a hostage or say this is a prisoner and that one is a hostage. We should not debate who should be exchanged first. If we debate who should be exchanged first, it will be one, two, three, or four years before an exchange is made and then it will be of dead, not living, people.

I urge them to make some concession. I don't mean you should violate religion and Islam. But things should not

require so much argument. The issue has created enough argument; it must be settled decisively. If what we read in the papers is true—that there is a sense of responsibility over the conditions of those held in Israel or al-Khiyam, if this kind of feeling exists—then serious efforts should be made. I mean a person should not go to sleep when his brother is tortured. This person should not sleep while nothing is known about his brother. The man who does not care about Muslim affairs is no Muslim; a man can be a true believer only if he cares about his brother.

These are prophetic sayings and words from the Koran. They must be implemented practically; they should not remain theories. On behalf of the brothers and the hundreds I don't know, I say: Enough debate and argument. This issue must be settled decisively and as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] Is there any chance that they have actually neglected you?

['Ubayd] The situation is what it is. Facts speak for themselves. The question, however, is whether there are circumstances I am unaware of that explain the situation. It is up to everyone to ask himself if he has been negligent or not, forgetful or not, and if he has tried to do something but failed. It is up to everyone to pass judgment on himself concerning the question of negligence. I like to think well of everyone and to believe that the circumstances have so far not been right. However, if one worked harder, the circumstances might change.

[Correspondent] Once again, we want you to say something to the West, the brothers, and—to prove that Israel is a country of democracy and freedom—to Israel too?

['Ubayd] Although I am a prisoner in the hands of the Israeli enemy—and this is an expression that many listeners in Israel may find hard to swallow, but I will continue to use it until the opposite is proved—the words I want to say have to do with the prisoners. As a state, Israel should act as a state and not engage in reprisals, like the organizations. For this reason, it should make more initiatives than it is making now to accelerate the release of its prisoners and ours.

In my opinion, initiatives made by one side, let us say Israel, call for initiatives from the other side. This is what I expect, based on my knowledge of facts on the ground. Of course such a matter would encourage all those who work for this case, whether Westerners, Lebanese, Muslims, or even Israelis, to keep going and reach a result.

Israel is holding me and other prisoners and others are holding its pilot and two other prisoners. The question, as I see it, is which side will make a concession first. The side that wants to be remembered as being humane, honest, and democratic will not, I believe, lose by making concessions, but rather be seen as the one that acted first and took the initiative in resolving this humanitarian matter.

Otherwise, democracy, if you will allow me, would just be something to brag about. This is what the West and others have been doing.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that in your view Israel should, as a first step, release some of the prisoners it is holding as a goodwill gesture?

['Ubayd] Prisoners could be released or, for instance, some of those...[pauses] I do not want to mention myself personally. The problem is that I am aware of my own circumstances. Maybe, as this interview was arranged, a meeting [muqabalat] with the Red Cross or some other measure will follow.

I do not know the circumstances of the two parties; that is, Israel and the other side. So, what is needed—and he who tries will find a way—is to find ways to speed up the process that is now moving only at a snail's pace.

German Envoy on Possible Release of Hammadi Brother

NC3004121793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] German Ambassador to Lebanon Peter Kiewitt has stated that the German judicial authorities are presently studying the possibility of releasing 'Abbas Hammadi who is imprisoned with his brother in Germany. He added that 'Abbas might be released in August 1993. He said that the case of the brother, Muhammad, is not now under consideration.

Amnesty Law Protects 6 Accused of 1983 U.S. Embassy Bombing

NC0305101093 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 May 93 p 8

[Text] A military tribunal has stated that the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in 'Ayn al-Muraysah in Beirut on 18 April 1983 by a booby-trapped vehicle laden with 400 kg of dynamite is a political crime covered by the Amnesty Law. Some 64 people were killed and 123 injured in the incident, of which six stand accused. They are Husayn Salih Harb, Sami Mahmud al-Hijjah, Mahmud Musa al-Dirani, Muhammad Nayif al-Jada', Hasan Muhammad Harb, and 'Ali Mustafa Haydar.

The tribunal also considered the assassination of French Military Attache Christian Goutiar [name as published] in front of the French Embassy in Mar Taqla in al-Hazimiyah on 17 September 1986 to be covered by the Amnesty Law.

Al-Hariri Delivers May Day Message

NC0305073993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 May 93

["Text" of May Day speech by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri; place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] O Lebanese: May Day comes this year with Lebanon on the threshold of earnest days and goals we look forward to achieving despite many difficulties and the complications accumulated over years. These obstacles prevented the Lebanese people from working for their future. I stress confidence in the Lebanese people's capabilities to overcome difficulties and rebuild the havoc created by successive wars. We also emphasize faith in Lebanon's economic, social, and developmental role. We are determined to restore and promote this role to make it a distinguished landmark of our progress, prosperity, and national stability.

May Day acquires its true significance because of its association with workers. At this point in our history, we in Lebanon are in dire need of devoting this day to production and contribution to the major national construction campaign. This campaign is inevitable and requires effort and hard work.

Lebanon will not be rebuilt if we continue to cry over tragedies. The social plight will not be eliminated if we are content to highlight it and unemployment will not be eased if we are content to warn of its dangers.

Lebanon needs more than a diagnosis of its disease. It needs a prescription. The remedy is hard work, solidarity, and cooperation in national action to push the wheel of economic stability forward. Reconstruction is synonymous with social progress. There can be no social progress if Lebanon remains captive to destruction and chaos. There is no way to address destruction and chaos without the genuine national willpower that is embodied in the significance of May Day.

Every corner of the homeland requires work and reconstruction. Reconstruction cannot be confined to rebuilding the ravages of war. We need social building so that the government can shoulder its responsibility to raise the standard of living, safeguard the gains of those on low incomes, and eliminate the social oppression of large segments of the Lebanese people created by the tribulations of war. This is the policy our government pursues. We will not go back on this policy, whatever the wishes of those who cast doubt and seek to undermine the state's march.

O Lebanese: On May Day, I address all Lebanese, particularly workers, a few hours before I begin a new Arab tour. I will endeavor to increase confidence in our homeland and in our people's ability to cope with the future and its challenges. I wish you and Lebanon all the best. Long live the people and long live Lebanon.

TV Station Closed for Disturbing Security

NC3004065593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The offices of the Independent Cable News, ICN, have been sealed by order of the public attorney of the Beirut Court of Appeals, who gave instructions to ban its transmission for broadcasting too many reports that undermine national unity and disturb public security. A unit from the Internal Security Forces, backed up by units from the State Security and Public Security Forces, carried out the orders. They entered the ICN building, told the employees to leave, and sealed the offices.

Afghanistan

Seven Killed, 29 Injured in Kabul Rocket Attack

LD0205173593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1539 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The 2nd and 4th Wards of Kabul city were hit today by two Sakar-type rockets and mortar [words indistinct] The correspondent of the Bakhtar News Agency reported that, as a result of the landing of these rockets and mortar shells, seven citizens—including one women—were killed, and another 29 people were injured. The injured were quickly transferred to a hospital and were placed in intensive care. These rockets also caused enormous material damage.

Rabbani Meeting Factions in Jalalabad 30 Apr

BK3004143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The Afghan president, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, flew into Peshawar from Kaoul this morning. The Afghan president and members of his entourage were received by senior officials at the airport. The foreign minister of Afghanistan, Seyyed Soleyman Gilani, and the Afghan counselor in Peshawar were also present on the occasion. Soon after his arrival, President Borhanoddin Rabbani and members of his entourage left Peshawar for Jalalabad by road. According to Pakistan television center in Peshawar, the Afghan president is scheduled to meet various leaders of Afghan tanzimat [organizations] at Jalalabad today.

Jehadi Leaders Meet

LD3004184393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] A preliminary meeting of the leaders of Jehadi groups aimed at discussing the issue of formation of the cabinet and continuation of the ceasefire was held this afternoon in the Palace of Jalalabad [Nangarhar Province] with the participation of Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The meeting was also attended by Esteemed Professor 'Abdol Rab Rasul Sayyaf, Esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Yunos Khales, Esteemed Pir Sayed Ahmad Gaylani, a representative of Esteemed Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, and Prime Minister designate Esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar. A correspondent of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports from Jalalabad that in the meeting, which was attended by the leaders or representatives of all the Jehadi groups, the issues of the formation of the cabinet and a permanent ceasefire were discussed based on Islamabad's agreements.

India

ICO Stand on Kashmir 'Totally Unacceptable'

BK3004163093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] India today rejected as totally unacceptable the resolution adopted by the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] on Kashmir and the Ayodhya issue. New Delhi has accused host Pakistan and certain elements in the ICO Secretariat of misleading the ICO foreign ministers on the subject.

The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said such communiques will only encourage Pakistan to continue with its support to terrorism and subversion directed against India. He reiterated that Kashmir is an integral part of India. He said Islamabad must cooperate with New Delhi to serve the larger objectives of peace and stability in the subcontinent. The spokesman also took exception to the ICO taking on the role of safeguarding the interests of over 100 million Indian citizens who happen to be Muslims. Terming it as a futile gesture, he said the political gimmickry inherent in this exercise is obvious.

The Libyan foreign minister, Mr. Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, who flew into Delhi from Karachi after attending the ICO conference said very few spoke on the resolution on Kashmir. He said his country wanted to be evenhanded with India on the Kashmir issue. The Libyan foreign minister is heading a six-member delegation and has brought a special message from Colonel Qadhdhafi to President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. Mr. al-Muntasir held wide-ranging discussions with minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia. Both sides underlined the need to evolve new strategies to meet the challenge posed by terrorists.

Reaction to Assassination of Sri Lankan President

Leaders Express 'Shock'

BK0105162593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] India has expressed shock at the assassination of the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa, saying that he has fallen victim to the mindless terrorism which it condemned unequivocally.

In their messages to the acting president of Sri Lanka, Mr. D.B. Wijetunge, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, and the prime minister, Nr. Narasimha Rao, said that India and Sri Lanka witnessed a steady growth of stable and friendly relations during Mr. Premadasa's stewardship.

The president said Mr. Premadasa's killing was an immense and tragic loss not only to Sri Lanka, but to the entire South Asian region.

The vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, in a messsage expressed shock and grief over the tragic event. He described Mr. Premadasa as a dynamic statesman who would be greatly missed by his country and in the councils of the world.

The prime minister describing Mr. Premadasa as one of the foremost statesman of the South Asian region said that Mr. Premadasa played a pivotal role in strengthening SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] during his recent chairmanship of the regional grouping.

In his message, the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, said that terrorism, in attempts to overturn the will of the people by violence, deserves universal condemnation.

Several political parties have condemned the assassination of Mr. Premadasa. The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, said that the assassination only confirms that terrorism has become a way of life in this part of the world. He urged the democratic forces to stand together to face the challenge of the disruptive forces.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] described the assassination as tragic. The party vice president, Mr. Malkani, called upon men of goodwill to help put an end to the climate of hate.

The Kerala chief minister deplored the assassination and said Mr. Premadasa's efforts to enhance the understanding among SAARC countries will be remembered.

Three-Day Mourning Declared

BK0205035893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpt] The government of India has decided to observe state mourning for three days from today as a mark of respect to the late Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa. During this period, the national flag will fly at half-mast on all government buildings and there will be no official entertainments. As already reported, Mr. Premadasa was assassinated by a suicide bomber while leading a May Day rally in Colombo yesterday. Thirty people, including six security personnel, are also reported to have been killed and over 60 injured in the blast. The island nation has been placed under indefinite curfew and the prime minister, Mr. Wijetunge, sworn in as the acting president. [passage omitted]

U.S. Retaliation for Patents Violation Scored

BK0105165093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 May 93

[Excerpts] The United States says irritants in its relations with India arising from trade-related issues can be amicably resolved through bilateral or multilateral discussions. The American treasury secretary, Mr. Lloyd Bentsen, conveyed this to the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, during his meeting in Washington. But, he said the issue of patent is of continuing concern to the United States. Conveying his country's support to India's economic policies, Mr. Bentsen said India had performed better than even what the optimists had expected. He said the United States will canvass support from other members of the international community for meeting India's exceptional financing requirements over the next two years. [passage ommitted]

India has regretted the United States action placing it in the list of nations allegedly violating patents and copyrights. Addressing newsmen in Washington, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, referred to the statement by the Indian Embassy which described the U.S. move as unfortunate, specially when the area of agreement between the two countries has been growing.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has criticized the U.S. Government for the punitive action. A statement by the party politburo in New Delhi said that the U.S. has taken this step to dilute the Indian patent laws.

Violence Reported in Karnataka; Bomb in Gujarat

BK0105035093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] In Karnataka, curfew was clamped in the coastal town of Bhatkal in North Kanara District following group clashes. Two persons died and several were injured in the clashes yesterday. The chief minister, Mr. Veerappa Moily, has said that his government will not hesitate to invoke TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act] against miscreants indulging in violence. Mr. Moily was speaking to newsmen at Haliyal in North Kanara District.

In Gujarat, at least nine persons were injured in the bomb blast in Navarangpura of Ahmedabad City last night. Police investigations are on.

Shoot-on-Sight Orders in Karnataka

BK0305033493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] In Karnataka, shoot-at-sight orders have been issued in the curfew-bound west coast town of Bhatkal where violent incidents erupted again yesterday. It is over a week since the town is witnessing large-scale violence. The state chief minister, Mr. Veerappa Moily, who visited the town on Saturday, appealed to the people to maintain calm.

Violence, Developments in Jammu, Kashmir Reported

Troops, Militants Clash in Sopor

BK0205095893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, militants opened fire, including rocket attacks, on six security force pickets in

Sopor last night. The pickets located at a double storied building at Hatisar Chowk caught fire and spread to nearby shops. [sentence as heard] Two security force jawans [soldiers] were injured and 50 shops damaged in the fire. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the fire has since been put off. The spokesman said militants have been carrying on intermittent firing in some areas of Sopor town since this morning.

Moslems in Kashmir March for Independence

BK0205155593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1456 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Srinagar, May 2 (AFP)—Thousands of Moslems took to the streets in a Kashmir town Sunday demanding independence from India after a border guard and a civilian died in an attack by Moslem guerrillas, witnesses said.

The thousands of residents marched through the narrow lanes of Sopore, about 60 kilometers (37 miles) from here, carrying the body of the civilian who died overnight Saturday, the witnesses said by telephone.

A member of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) was also killed when militants fired rockets at a two-storey security post and later targeted half-a-dozen other BSF bunkers in Sopore town.

The guerrilla attack on the security post triggered a major fire which gutted some 60 houses and shops, officials here said. But the residents alleged that they were destroyed by rampaging BSF troops.

Five other BSF personnel were injured in the attack on the paramilitary post after 11:30 p.m. (1800 GMT) in a residential district.

"The militants attacked with rockets and guns," Kashmir state government spokesman Ram Mohan Rao said in New Delhi. "Sporadic firing was continuing when last reports came in."

The civilian's death sparked a crippling strike in Sopore. Hundreds of BSF personnel, including reinforcements, virtually sealed the town as Moslem residents took to the streets, blaming the BSF for the death.

"The security forces may continue to burn Sopore, but none can stop us from achieving the goal of self-determination," said Altaf Ahmed, a lawyer in Sopore said over telephone.

BSF personnel were accused of shooting dead some 50 civilians in a frenzy on January 6 after an ambush, and six more civilians on April 19.

The latest violence in Sopore, a militant bastion, came as the Kashmir administration suspended 110 policemen for instigating a police strike, and the state's police chief vowed to come down hard on the Moslem separatists.

The 110 included Commandant A.S. Lone of the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. They were accused of instigating an unprecedented strike after a colleague died in the custody of security forces.

Thousands of policemen seized the police control room here April 22 after the death of the constable, arrested for being linked to the militants, and took several officers hostage.

Indian army troops stormed the control room April 28 and disarmed and arrested some 1,000 policemen in a swift operation. Twenty of them were sacked two days later.

PTI quoted officials as saying "more dismissals or suspensions could not be ruled out."

In Srinagar, Kashmir Director General of Police Balwinder Singh Bedi ordered Moslem guerrillas fighting to secede from India to surrender and warned that security forces planned to step up their campaign.

"We will try to take a lenient view (if they surrender)," he said. "But they have to shun the path of violence."

Bedi said militant groups had suffered enormously at the hands of Indian security forces. "(But) still we cannot say (that the situation) is fully under control."

He said more than 2,000 militants and 3,000 civilians had been killed in Kashmir since 1989 in violence linked to the Moslem separatist campaign. He did not say how many security personnel had died.

Indian security forces had seized 12,000 weapons, including machine guns, assault and sniper rifles, pistols, revolvers, rockets and rocket launchers and ammunition, he added.

Thousands have died in the Moslem campaign in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state. Pakistan disputes the state's sovereignty and holds the northern third of Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the rebels. Islamabad denies the charge, but supports the Moslem campaign, calling it a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Chief Militant Killed by Punjab Police

BK0205034293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] In Punjab, the chief of a militant organization, Rachpal Singh Fauji, was killed in an encounter with security forces early this morning at village Maskot in Gurdaspur District. According to the Batala police chief, Fauji was responsible for hundreds of killings in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh during the last nine years. Two machine guns, two rockets, six detonators, and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from the encounter site. Fauji's accomplish, however, managed to escape. Elsewhere in the state, two militants were killed

in Kapurthala and Ludhiana Districts, while two were held in Ropar and Amritsar Districts.

Iran

President: No Involvement in Foreign Movements

LD0105162493 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Saturday recommended the domestic scientific centers to establish links with international scientific and technological centers and keep scientific affairs apart from political and economic issues.

Speaking at a special ceremony of awarding the outstanding professors of higher education, the president once again made it clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran was not involved in developments in Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and countries where the Islamic movements have gained momentum. He said that only the reflection of the achievements of the Islamic revolution of Iran has encouraged nations.

The president further added that enemies who are accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of engagement in terroristic operations, themselves are supporters of terrorism. A proof of this, he added, is the martyrdom of many outstanding figures of the revolution in terrorist activities. He added that the Islamic Republic can file a claim at international forums for the damage and losses it has sustained from terrorists.

Yazdi: ICO Stand on Bosnian Muslims Insufficient

LD3004130293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran's interim Friday prayers leader, Ayatollah Yazdi, today in the prayer sermons referring to the pitiable incidents taking place in Islamic countries within the framework of Islam's enemy plots condemned the Serbian crimes against Bosnia-Herzegovina Muslims. He reiterated the West is watching all these crimes but does not oppose them, rather it hinders the right of self-defense of the Bosnian Muslim people.

Ayatollah Yazdi, saying that Islamic ummah is vigilant and awake now, stated: In its recent session in Pakistan, the Islamic Conference [Organization] [ICO] adopt [as heard] a ratification in support of the Muslim Bosnians, but is not sufficient and the Bosnian foreign minister has the right to be dissatisfied with it for the world of Islam is required to adopt practical measures for defending the Bosnian people.

The head of the Iranian judiciary, in continuation of prayer sermons, referring to the situation in Palestine and the point that Israel is a usurper, condemned any compromise talks with the regime saying: Any kind of agreements with this regime is invalid from the viewpoint of the Islamic ummah.

DPK Villages Shelled 29 Apr

NC0305055393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Dear listeners: A report received by the Voice of Iranian Kordestan states that on 29 April, the Islamic Republic's antipopular and warmongering forces again shelled Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK] positions and villages around the political bureau headquarters for several hours using heavy artillery. The shelling started at 1700 [1230 GMT] and continued intensively until 1730, when it halted for an hour. More intense shelling started at 1830, continuing until 2030. Dozens of mortars and shells were fired, inflicting heavy damage and seriously wounding several villagers.

By repeating its criminal and aggressive act, the antipopular regime of the Islamic Republic showed that it ignores public opinion, the people of Iraqi Kurdistan, and international forums and organizations and is trying to implement its wretched plot of turning Iraqi territory into its arena.

The aggressive clerical regime is carrying out renewed shelling of the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan. During the past few days, all the people in Iraqi Kurdistan have condemned the regime's objective behind its offensive against Iraqi Kurdistan and have expressed their rage and aversion for the clerical regime's policy. The DPK has informed all international organizations and forums of the plots being hatched by the criminal clerical regime. The regime also knows of these forums' stances.

It knows what the situation is, but the clerical regime remains determined to continue its criminal acts and to bring destruction, death, and homelessness to the people in Iraqi Kurdistan. That regime attaches the minimum significance to the stances of the masses in Iraqi Kurdistan and to the views of the United Nations and powerful world governments.

If there is no reaction to the regime's policy through pressure by all the sides and if no decisive resolution is issued or decisive stance adopted, the clerical regime will become more determined in perpetrating its criminal acts. With each day that passes, it will inflict more deaths and destruction on the people. Everything should be done to stop the clerical regime's antipopular plot before it is too late and before there are heavier casualties and destruction.

Iranian Army Said in Iraq

NC0305101693 Paris AFP in English 0956 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 3 (AFP)—The Iranian Army on Monday shelled Iranian Kurdish bases and pursued an incursion in northern Iraq for the third straight day, the Democratic Party of Kordestan (DPK) said.

The DPK spokesman in Baghdad, Ghafur Hamdi, said armoured units backed by Revolutionary Guards were deployed five kilometres (three miles) inside Kurdish-held northern Iraq, up to the village of Panjwin.

Several people were injured in shelling of positions of the DPK and the Iranian Kurdish communist party Komeleh, he told AFP, without giving details on casualties or the number of Iranian troops taking part in the incursion.

Iraqi Kurdish sources have said the operation was launched Saturday, but Tehran has not reacted to the reports. On Sunday, Iraq threatened to retaliate against Iranian threats to its sovereignty.

Iraqi Wish To Remove 'Barriers' Welcomed

NC0305104793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Lift the Barriers"]

[Text] The Government of Iraq has announced its readiness to receive Iranian pilgrims to the holy shrines in Iraq.

Hamid al-Qabisi 'Amid, the Iraqi Deputy Minister of Endowments and Dean of the Islamic College in Baghdad, who arrived in Qom at the head of a 5-member delegation to attend the International Congress on Sheykh Mofid, stressed that as the official Iraqi position and added that as far as Iraq was concerned there were no obstacles. He said that it was now possible for the relevant authorities from the two countries to hold meetings and find ways of lifting the remaining barriers.

Those statements from the Iraqi deputy minister of endowments are very encouraging signs. So far the Iraqi authorities balked at every possible agreement whenever talks on the subject reached a definite stage between the two countries. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the latest statement by the visiting Iraqi authority represents a new policy on the part of Iraq.

Millions of Muslims, in particular the Shiite Muslims, are anxious to visit the sacred sites in Iraq. And for many years the Iraqi authorities have deprived them of the joy and blessing of making pilgrimage to those sacred sites on the basis of totally untenable arguments.

It should be noted in this connection that apart from the possibility of strengthening cultural and religious ties among the Muslims of the world, trips to the holy sites in Iraq such as the cities of al-Najaf and Karbala' by Muslim pilgrims would provide a considerable sources of income for the Iraqi nation.

Thus there is every reason for the Iraqi government to revise its policies in this connection, and fortunately there have been several signs, received from various sources, which point to the fact that the Iraqi authorities have really given the subject second thoughts. There is thus hopeful prospect that the bureaucratic problems will soon be solved, and that the devout Iranian Muslims will have the long-awaited chance of going on pilgrimage to the sacred sites in Iraq.

On the other hand, the visits by the Iraqi Mulsims to the holy cities of Mashhad and Qom in Iran could provide the basis for further concord and union between the two neighboring nations of Iran and Iraq. This would have the further advantage of giving the Iraqi nation a chance of breaking out of the isolation that has been imposed on them.

President's Stand on Repatriation Lauded

NC0305104193 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 21 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Iranian Experts Welcomed Back"]

[Text] President Rafsanjani during his visit to the Kerman Province this week said that opportunity should be given to those Iranian scientists and expert who have national and religious allegiance to Iran but now residing abroad, to return to their homeland to put their know-how and expertise at the disposal of their country. He added that attracting back knowledgeable Iranian expatriates will be among the major policies of the Islamic Republic Government in the future.

In view of the fact that Iran, among the developing countries, has one of the highest rates of brain drain, what the president said in Kerman is very important. For one thing, it indicates the will of the government to bolster the scientific and technical abilities of Iran with knowledge and expertise of the Iranians themselves. While Iran should rely on its domestic skilled human resources, however, those Iranians who do not have criminal records can come back and speed up the country's progress and development.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, a large number of Iranian experts left the country to reside abroad. Meanwhile those who were studying in foreign universities at the time did not return to their homeland due to prolonged Iraqi imposed war as well as negative propaganda by the Western media. Therefore, a big vacuum was created in terms of the availability of expert manpower during the post-war reconstruction era. The so-called brain drain trend has been reversed in recent years through proper initiatives taken by the government. But still a large number of Iranian connoisseurs are working in foreign countries whose expertise and skill are urgently needed in Iran.

One of the major reasons for which well educated Iranian did not want to come back to Iran has been the negative news and propaganda disseminated by the Western media throughout the world about the post-Islamic Revolution social conditions in Iran. The best and the easiest way to neutralize such plots is to let Iranians living abroad to come and see the situation for themselves with their own eyes.

Presently racism and anti-foreigners sentiments are growing in the Western countries where many Iranian experts are living. Many of them are at times humiliated and even threatened to death. Therefore, already incentive for Iranians living in the West exists to think about coming back home.

In recent years many Iranians have returned to Iran and seen the situation here. A large number of them have taken permanent residence in the country. Iranians have profound faith in Islam and deep love for Iran as well as their rich culture, regardless of where they live. Consequently the government officials particularly those in the Foreign Ministry should do their utmost to help these experts to come back and serve.

Azerbaijani Parliament Official Visits Ardebil

LD2404222493 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Ardebil, April 24, IRNA—Deputy Chairman of the Azeri Parliament Afidin Jalilov here today called the Islamic Republic "a big brother and true supporter" of his country under the present difficult circumstances.

Jalilov also stressed on significance of transfer of technology and purchase of industrial products and foodstuffs.

On cultural cooperation, he said Tehran and Baku reached agreement on exchange of university students and professors as well as physicians.

On joint border projects, he said work on the Khoda Afrin dam over the border River Aras has been completed, and the project will be inaugurated tomorrow, April 25. The dam will benefit the people of the two countries, he added.

Jalilov heading a delegation arrived in Ardebil by land road today.

Austrian Delegation Urges Promoting Economic Ties

LD2604191193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri met and conferred this afternoon with Mr. Mader-Thaner, head of the Economic and Commercial Commission of the Austrian Parliament, who is also head of Austria's Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Nateq-Nuri referred to Austria's industrial strength and emphasized the need for Austria to cooperate with the reconstruction process in Iran. He thanked the Austrian Government for supporting Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslims and said that the Majles is ready to form parliamentary friendship with Austria.

The head of Austria's Economic and Commercial Commission assessed as positive the growing economic relations between Iran and Austria. He said that his country is ready to train Iranian experts in the technical and industrial fields.

Mr. Mader-Thaner, who is visiting Iran at the head of a delegation, also met and conferred today with First Vice President Mr. Habibi. Mr. Habibi pointed to the good relations between Iran and Austria since the victory of the Islamic revolution and expressed the hope that political and economic relations between the two countries will grow. Mr. Mader-Thaner stressed expanding economic relations between the two countries. He said he has had useful discussions with the officials of our country over a number of days about more cooperation in the fields of commerce, industry, and transport.

Delegation Leaves for Economic Talks in Bonn

LD2604111493 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—An Iranian delegation left here for Bonn Monday to hold "sensitive" politico-economic talks with German officials, the morning daily "TEHRAN TIMES" reported.

The delegation comprises head of the Majles Foreign Affairs Commission Hasan Rowhani, deputy from Shiraz Qassem Sholeh Sa'adi and Hamedan Deputy Seyyed Jalal Sa'adatian.

It said that Sa'adatian believed the talks were important as the two countries could join in various areas of industrial, economic and commercial fields.

"The Irano-German talks will be decisive as we are on the eve of launcning the promising second five-year plan next year", the daily quoted the official as saying.

The forthcoming talks, said Sa'adatian, would result in exploring fresh avenues for the reciprocal cooperation between the two countries, the paper said.

"The Iran-German talks are sensitive in the light of the fact that there are certain powers which want to create a rift in ties between the two countries," he said.

The Iranian delegation is to meet with several German ministers and might also call on Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Germany is one of the major trade partners of Iran.

Iraqi Refugees Can Return Home

LD2504095993 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 25, IRNA—Iraqi refugees would face no restrictions in case they wish to return home, an informed source in this southern province said here Saturday. The source said that the Iraqis

wishing to return home could do so under the supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) based both in Iraq and in the southern provincial borders.

He said that a delay for repatriation of 23 Iraqi refugees residing in 'Ashrafi Esfahani' camp at Dezful was due to limited presence of UNHCR representative from the Iraqi side at the border.

The source explained that there were no restrictions for the UNHCR members based in the Islamic Republic but that those in Iraq need a long period before they reach agreement with Iraqi authorities on repatriation of the refugees.

In order to avoid difficulties, the UNHCR members are required to be present at the border on a fixed time, he said adding that certain arrangements are under way so as the Iraqi-based UNHCR representative could reach agreement with Iraqi authorities and be present at border when required.

Victory-4 Gulf Exercises Continue 1 May

LD0105134093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] The fourth phase of the great Victory-4 military exercise is continuing. The senior commanders of the three forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] inspected the fleet and took the flyover [razheh] of the units this morning.

According to a report by our reporter from the command ship of the Army's Naval Forces and the IRGC in Persian Gulf waters, dozens of military ships, heavy and light surface vessels and submarines—including the Tareq-1 submarine—hovercraft, hundreds of high-speed boats and personnel carriers, dozens of fighter bombers, and transport and reconnaissance aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army as well as dozens of helicopters of various kinds in different flight formations demonstrated the combat power and capability of the three forces of the Islamic Republic of Irans's Army and the IRGC in this glorious review.

In this phase of the Victory-4 maneuvers, divers jumped from helicopters, marine units shot at drones, and hypothetical targets were attacked.

During the Victory-4 maneuvers, the presence of seminarian combatants, from the combat brigade named for Imam Sadeq—peace be upon him—bestowed a special aspect on the operations.

Joint Maneuvers Continue 3 May

LD0305102093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] On the eighth day of the great amphibious and air maneuvers of the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the participating forces began the sixth phase of the maneuvers in the Persian Gulf waters.

According to a report from the joint operations headquarters of the Victory-4 manevers, in this phase of the maneuver, which is named the tactical phase and is being carried out to evaluate the forces' combat, operational, and tactical capabilities, the personnel of the Army and the Guards Corps participated with submarines, frigates, warships, logistical vessels, speedboats, helicopters, and reconnaissance and combat planes of the Armed Forces.

In the sixth phase of the maneuver, the sea-to-shore missile unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps also displayed its equipment and demonstrated its combat capability.

This phase of the Victory-4 maneuver will continue this afternoon in accordance with the plans.

Cabinet Meets; Habibi Rules Out Reshuffle

LD0205213993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpts] The cabinet met this afternoon. Regulations concerning the responsibilities of the national committee for combating natural disasters and the general principles of the bill on methods of implementing development projects were passed.

First Vice President Habibi, in an interview with reporters at the end of the cabinet meeting, described the decisions of the cabinet. Central News Unit reports that he referred to the law ratified in 1991 concerning the formation of the committee for combating natural disasters and said that the regulations related to the national committee and subcommittees of the law were passed. [passage omitted]

Also passed were the general principles of the bill on methods of implementing development projects and rules affecting their executors as well as the manner of paying the contractors and executors of the projects. He said: The details of this draft bill will be reviewed later.

Concerning the price rise of certain goods, such as milk and tea, he said: No subsidies have been envisaged for tea and milk in the budget ratified by the Islamic Consultative Assembly. He pointed to the rise in the cost of milk production and said that he believes that it is natural for the price of milk to rise. He added: Though the government has not considered giving credit for subsidizing milk, nevertheless, 400 billion rials are being paid out as subsidies for milk. [passage omitted]

In connection with how the single rate of exchange program will continue to operate, the government spokesman said: The program will continue to be implemented along the lines already envisaged, and there are no specific problems involved. Thirty-two bank branches are continuing to sell foreign currency up to $5,000 to each applicant.

With regard to reports of potential changes in the cabinet, he said: Any change will depend on the decision of the president, and executive organs will be carrying out their duties until the end of their terms.

Commentary Views Start of Presidential Elections

LD0105213093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Preliminary works for holding the sixth round of presidential elections of the Islamic Republic of Iran have started with registration of presidential candidates throughout the country. Based on the announcement of the interior minister, candidates have five days as of 11 May, in accordance to regulations which have been already announced, to refer to Interior Ministry for registering their nomination.

Based on Principle 111 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, election of a new president should have taken place at least one month before the end of the previews presidential term. Within the period of election of the new president and the termination of the tenure of the former president, the ex-president will carry out presidential duties.

The interior minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat ol- Eslam Nuri, describing the conditions for the sixth round of presidential elections said: Presidential elections will be held throughout the country and outside Iran in the embassies. He mentioned the use of computers in counting votes as a particularity of this round of presidential elections, adding simultaneous with presidential elections by-elections for the Islamic Consultative Assembly will also be held in 11 constituencies.

Based on the provisions of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution, the president has to be elected among the religious and political figures and dignitaries who possess the following qualifications: to be of Iranian origin; of Iranian nationality; to be prudent and skilled administrator; having a good record, trustworthiness and piety, as well as being faithful and committed to the principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and being a follower of the country's official religion.

The president is the highest official in the country after the leadership and is in charge of executing the constitution and regulating the relationship between the three powers, and also has the executive power, except in certain affairs which are directly related to the leadership. High sensitivity of the role of presidency in the history of the country undoubtedly prescribes orientation of all sided efforts for proper and accurate holding of the said elections. In this relation the issue of presidential elections is ponderable from two aspects. On the one hand, accuracy of the elections governs the activities made by [word indistinct] and organizers of the elections that the Council of Guardians and the Interior Ministry undertake the sensitive and crucial responsibility and massive participation of the people in the presidential elections, and in fact participation in determining the fate of the country is of significance, on the other.

Evidently, under the present conditions, when the Islamic Republic of Iran has left behind the [word indistinct] period of the Iraqi imposed war and is going through the path of reconstruction in political and economic independence, the election of an efficient and prudent individual for holding the sensitive responsibility of presidency is of great importance.

Minister Calls For 'Fraud-Free' Elections

LD0105144193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] The gathering of the country's governors was held in Tehran today in the presence of Interior Minister Mr. [Hamid] Nuri.

Referring to the holding of a new round of presidential elections in the near future Mr. Nuri stressed the necessity for holding fraud-free elections. Elaborating on the world arrogance's efforts to prevent the Iranian people from taking part in the elections Mr. Nuri said all the main steps will be taken to hold fair elections.

President Addresses Model Teachers Meeting

LD0205121793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 May 93

[Excerpts] At the beginning of this news bulletin we informed you that today, on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Motahhari and Teacher's Day, President Hashemi- Rafsanjani met with model teachers and instructors from all over the country. We draw your attention to a full report on this:

During the meeting the head of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] praised the lofty status of teachers and said: Martyr Motahhari was a realistic thinker and scholar who was aware of and cared for what was going on during his time. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that it is idle thinking for the enemies to think that by removing prominent religious figures from scene of revolution they can eliminate the source of popular activity.[passage omitted]

The head of the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution stated: One of the outstanding characteristics of the Islamic revolution of Iran is the active and effective presence of the country's women in education, training, and other social activities. He went on to say: Women's talents and creativity, particularly in tasks which need their talent and capability, were not used during the past

and that was a violation of their rights [zolm]. The same thing is currently going on in the unbridled Western societies today. The active presence of women on many social scenes in the Islamic Republic of Iran without being influenced by the West, which is corrupt and licentious, displays the main difference between the Islamic and Western understanding of the role of women in society. The fact that women comprise 47 percent of Iranian society and have now succeeded in constituting 51 percent of model teachers is itself a clear proof of their excellent talents. [passage omitted]

Finally Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction at the performance of the Education Ministry in reforming the country's educational system. [passage omitted].

Education Minister Najafi said: On the basis of the latest statistics, currently 16,818,000 students are studying at 92,710 educational units and in 546,000 classrooms and some 800,000 Education Ministry personnel are teaching them. [passage omitted]

He added: This year 263 model headmasters and teachers have been chosen from 800,000 and 51 percent of them are women. This is the first year that the number of model women teachers is higher than men. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Significance of Hajj

LD0205162693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The better the divine hajj rituals are organized, the better will the revolution's honor be safeguarded.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani made this comment at a meeting with the representative of the Vali-ye Faqih and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, members of the leader's headquarters, and the head of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization. He added: The great hajj issue is an obligation of our country's managing authorities as well as being the forehead [as heard] of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran before other states.

Referring to the sensitive circumstances in the world, the president said, regarding the political dimension of hajj: The awe and respect that our hajj has won in the world represent the investment capital and gains of this divine visit; and I hope that the Iranian pilgrims this year, near the House of God and in those holy places, will join voices with all Muslims to say prayers for the removal of the difficulties facing the Islamic world and for the success of the esteemed leader of the revolution and the state authorities.

Before Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri and Pur-Nejati and Reza'i presented reports on the current training programs of the pilgrims and operational affairs of the hajj.

Majles Speaker Concludes Hormozgan Visit

NC0305071793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Islamic Assembly Speaker Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who led a delegation to Hormozgan Province to meet the people and inspect development projects, returned to Tehran this morning.

Before leaving Bandar-e'Abbas, the speaker detailed his trip in an interview with our correspondent:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Nateq Nuri said he was satisfied with developments in Hormozgan and described the Bafq- Bandar-e 'Abbas project as a national scheme generating employment. He said the project is extremely positive and useful for the economy and for eliminating Hormozgan's transport problems. Some 26 billion tumans and $500 million have been spent on it.

Nateq-Nuri referred to the Salman oil terminals in the Persian Gulf working again as a source of pride for Iran and said he was satisfied with the efforts of experts and employees in the oil industry. He added: This terminal, destroyed by the Americans, has been rebuilt and operates better than before.

The speaker said: The initial steps to rebuild flood-stricken areas are being taken and the deputy of the Vali-ye Faqih [Supreme Jurisconsult] in the Red Crescent, ministers of the Construction Jihad and Transportation, and other executive officials have pledged to complete the projects as soon as possible to speed the reconstruction and compensate those who sustained losses in flooded areas.

Nateq-Nuri stressed the need to pay greater attention to providing potable water in Bandar-e Lengeh and added: The Moharram project, planned for the permanent supply of potable water to Bandar-e Lengeh, has been allocated 10 billion rials in the budget. About 100 billion rials have been allotted to the program to eliminate cultural deprivation in deprived areas and sports complexes will be set up in Hormozgan's cities, including in the port of Jask. He stressed the need for social planning for the leisure hours of the country's youth.

According to our correspondent, before leaving Bandar-e 'Abbas, Nateq-Nuri met cultural and teachers' aides of the Hormozgan Literacy Movement at the female teacher's training center. He greeted them on Teacher's Day and on the anniversary of the martyrdom of scholar Motahheri and stressed that an Islamic society should be based on the principle of upgrading learning and culture in that society. This heavy responsibility has been assigned to teachers.

The speaker referred to the cultural onslaught by the revolution's enemies and added: The powers of world arrogance, which have not succeeded on the political or military plane, have now resorted to an ext??ve cultural

onslaught against Islamic Iran. This intensifies the teachers' mission more than ever. [end recording]

Lavan Oil Complex Reopened 30 Apr

LD3004165193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The Persian Gulf's Lavan oil complex—with a daily capacity of 220,000 barrels—reopened today in the presence of Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri.

The Lavan oil complex was damaged by the aggressive Iraqi and U.S. forces during the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war.

The reconstruction of the complex cost 20 billion rials and allows Iran to again use the Salman oil field which is jointly owned with UAE.

At the opening ceremonies, Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh Kho'i thanked the Iranian personnel and workers for their ceaseless effort to reconstruct the complex and said the implementation of such projects and the use of Iranian specialists was a fundamental turn in the country's economic development.

* Exchange Rate Takes Unprecedented Jump

93LA0029B London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] When the Central Bank announced that the foreign exchange rate would float and be "unified," the prices of foreign currencies in Iran made an unprecedented leap and the dollar, whose floating rate was announced by the Central Bank to be about 154 tomans, was trading last week at 186 tomans on the free market.

In its 23 Farvardin (12 Apr) issue, the newspaper KEYHAN of Tehran, which usually sees a previously planned "plot" when these kinds of events occur, allocated its large front-page headline to this and wrote: "Plot by Capitalists and Brokers To Raise the Price of Foreign Exchange and Gold on the Free Market."

KEYHAN of Tehran writes: In the last few days a large number of capitalists and foreign exchange and gold brokers were seen in the vicinity of the Central Bank and the Eslambul intersection buying foreign exchange and gold in the billions, and thus a new crisis developed in the nation's economy.

KEYHAN called for judicial prosecution of these agents, which according to it brought a "shock" to the foreign exchange market when the Central Bank lifted all restrictions on the buying and selling of foreign exchange and declared that it was unregulated.

On the other hand, in a telephone interview with KEYHAN (of London) 'Ali Pakpur, an expert on financial and monetary affairs in London, said that with the sudden leap in the foreign exchange rate, the Central Bank of Iran is "a violator." His idea is that if the free market foreign exchange rate is up to 20 percent higher than the floating Central Bank rate, what meaning does it have?

Informed sources say that the Central Bank is selling the dollar itself at up to 15 tomans higher than the floating rate to money changers and it is thus itself the primary factor in the increase of the foreign exchange rate. In Tehran they are calling this kind of dollar the "meddling dollar," or the "intervening dollar."

When it was announced that the foreign exchange rate would float, Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, Chief of the Central Bank, announced that the foreign exchange rate on the free market would not have a tangible difference with the floating foreign exchange rate, to an extent that is to be announced by the Central Bank.

* Bank Markazi Announces Exchange Rates Daily

93LA0025C London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Apr 93 p 2

[Radio interview with Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, the director of the Central Bank, by unidentified correspondent on 3 April; place not given]

[Text] Receiving foreign currency to purchase goods and services from other countries no longer requires permission from the Central Bank, and (except when subsidies are involved) applicants may open document credit in any amount that they wish with the payment to the banks of the rial equivalent of the foreign currency.

Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, the director of the Central Bank, made this announcement in a radio interview on 14 Farvardin [3 Apr] and said: The banks are also obliged to take steps to transfer foreign currency in any amount that the customer wants, and there are no restrictions in this regard. He said: However, if anyone wants to convert his wealth to foreign currency and transfer it out of the country, of course, there will be restrictions.

He did not explain how these restrictions will be imposed.

The director of the Central Bank said: The rate of foreign currency will be announced daily by the Central Bank, and foreign currency shall be placed at the disposal of the applicants. The amount of foreign currency depends on the amount of rials that the applicant pays to the Central Bank. He added: There is, of course, a difference between the floating foreign currency rate that banks buy it from the customer and the foreign currency rate on the open market, but the difference will not be very great.

Earlier, applicants for foreign currency had to have a permit, which was a "computer receipt" from the Central Bank, to present to the commercial banks to buy the necessary foreign currency. But since the beginning of 1372 [21 Mar 1993], this method has been abolished, and applicants may go directly to the commercial banks to purchase and transfer foreign currency.

'Adeli said: For essential goods, medicine, and major defense items, a permit from the Central Bank is still

required. While trying to diminish the general concern about the increase in prices that all experts predict, he said: "The event that everybody was expecting to occur with the creation of a single foreign currency has been occurring gradually since 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991], that is, since the floating rate of foreign currency was announced along with other rates by the Central Bank."

The director of the Central Bank speaks of the creation of a single foreign currency rate while at the present there are three different rates of foreign currency: 70 rials to the dollar, which according to him is used to purchase essential goods, medicine, and defense equipment; the floating rate of foreign currency, which is announced daily by the Central Bank; and, finally, the rate of foreign currency in the open market, which is more expensive than the Central Bank floating foreign currency rate.

Even though the difference between the floating foreign currency rate and the open market rate is termed "insignificant" by the director of the Central Bank, on 14 Farvardin, the same day that the Central Bank announced the floating rate of the dollar at 1,542 rials, the price of every dollar on the open market was 1,635 rials, that is 93 rials higher than the floating rate.

'Adeli said: The difference will be in the "last two digits" of the rate; however, the difference was actually in the last three digits.

* Water Bills To Be Paid by Floating Exchange Rates

93LA0029F London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Apr 93 p 11

[Text] The Tehran Province Water and Sewage Company announced that the water price for subscribers who use more than 70 cubic meters will be calculated at the floating foreign exchange rate.

Shakibi, executive director of the aforementioned company, when asked what the water price would be for consumers of more than 70 cubic meters based on this calculation, said that this figure had not yet been determined, but that it would be "a very high figure."

For low-consumption consumers, the minimum water price per cubic meter is 12 rials. On the other hand, the Central Bank announces the floating foreign exchange rate on a daily basis. It is not clear now how the water price based on the floating foreign exchange rate will be calculated.

Nepal and Bhutan

Nepalese Minister on Exports to India

BK2904040093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Nepal's finance minister, Mr. Mahesh Acharya, says there has been a marginal growth in his country's exports to India following the recent liberalization of trade by the two countries. In an interview with the AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Ratan Salve, he said the massive economic reforms undertaken by India will benefit Nepal. Mr. Acharya said even though Nepal has gone in for full convertibility, the rate of exchange of Indian currency in relation to the Nepalese rupee will continue to be controlled for some more time.

Nepalese Reaction to Assassination in Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Condemns Attack

BK0105142493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1235 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Kathmandu, May 1 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala on Saturday expressed grief over the death of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and condemned the perpetrators of the grisly bomb attack in which he died.

"I am deeply shocked to hear about the tragic death of President Premadasa and I condemn this ghastly act of terrorism," said Koirala, who is touring his home town of Biratnagar, 290 kilometres (170 miles) southeast of Kathmandu.

He said he hoped peace and stability would return to Sri Lanka.

Two-Day National Mourning

BK0205091693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Nepal has declared a two-day national mourning with the Nepalese flag flying half-mast on all government buildings in memory of the slain Sri Lankan president, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa. A day's holiday has also been declared throughout the Himalayan kingdom tomorrow. This was announced by the Nepalese foreign secretary, Mr. Yadav Kant Silwal, In Kathmandu today.

King Birendra and Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala have expressed shock at the death of Sri Lankan president and extended condolences to the acting president, Sri Lankan Government, people, and members of the bereaved family.

Bhutan's Foreign Minister on Ethnic Conflict

BK0205054693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 May 93 p A8

[Interview with Bhutan's Foreign Minister Lyonpo Dawa Tsering by NATION correspondent Sonny Inbaraj "recently"; place not given]

[Text] [Inbaraj] There have been claims that your government has forcibly expelled more than 100,000 Bhutanese of Nepali-origin from southern Bhutan. Some

human rights activists have even alleged that your government has embarked on a progrnmme of ethnic cleansing since 1988. What is your reaction to these charges?

[Tsering] I have to give you my impressions from the Bhutanese side. The word ethnic cleansing is something we don't understand, because there is no violence involved at all. It is our contention that the majority of the people who are leaving the country are illegal residents of Bhutan.

The census exercise which we carried out in 1988 has identified them as illegals and for that reason, they are leaving.

When Amnesty International came to Bhutan [in 1992] they raised the issue of whether our government would allow these illegal residents to work in the country. Our government categorically told Amnesty International, that it is prepared to give them work permits, just as we give work permits to outsiders who are working in Bhutan.

Most of the people who have been identified as iilegals in the 1988 census have left Bhutan because they realize that without proper citizenship status they will be disadvantaged in terms of access to job opportunities and social services.

Another category of people who are leaving Bhutan, in our contention, are leaving the country legally. Traditionally, Bhutan permits its citizens to emigrate from the country. However, there are certain procedures involved. Firstly, the person would have to write a letter to the village headman stating his intention to leave the country. The headman will then speak to the person involved and if he is satisfied that no one is forcing that person to leave, he will forward the application to the District Development Committee.

If the District Committee is satisfied over the reasons for leaving, the application is then sent to the court.

We have had these processes witnessed by foreign journalists because the most often asked question is "Why are so many thousands of people are leaving?" Recently we have had journalists from THE NEW YORK TIMES and TIMES OF INDIA to interview people who were leaving. These journalists were free to interview whomsoever they wished, and we just left them alone—to dispel allegations that we were influencing the people interviewed.

The reports published by these journalists said they were leaving voluntarily.

In our perception ethnic-cleansing means driving people out by force to occupy their land. We are not occupying anybody's land and much of the unoccupied land is still fallow down in southern Bhutan. Ethnic cleansing has some serious connotations—that you are trying to get rid of somebody and you want to occupy the space he's in. That allegation has not been made against us.

We do have a problem in southern Bhutan, but it is in no way related to ethnic cleansing.

[Inbaraj] Does this mean your government maintains that these people are leaving southern Bhutan out of tbeir own free will and are very happy to do so?

[Tsering] Not all. There is one category of people who are leaving and our government is not at all happy at their departure. As I mentioned earlier, these are the ones who are emigrating legally, exercising their traditional right. Our king in fact has gone down several times to southern Bhutan to instruct the civil officials to appeal to them not to leave the country. Last year for instance our government exempted them from paying land taxes, in order to induce these southern Bhutanese to stay back.

A big chunk of genuine Bhutanese nationals have left the country. There are two interpretations on why this is happening. One interpretation is the fear and insecurity created in southern Bhutan because of terrorist attacks. This has also been acknowledged by UNHCR [United Nations High Commission on Refugees], which also wants to study the cause further.

Let me point out that this insecurity need not necessarily be caused by terrorists; there is also a fear of the security forces. Our security forces are functioning under lots of tension—they're getting shot at, they're getting ambushed and lots of them have died. Because of this, they sometimes become quite high strung and might sometimes be a bit rough on the common people.

The other explanation, which is our government's contention, is that the dissidents in the [refugee] camps [along the Nepal-India border], when they found themselves high and dry, tried to induce people to come to Nepal to attract international support. Our assessment is that these dissidents want to at least get about 100,000 people into the camps, so that the attention of the whole world focuses on the issue.

We have documented evidence that there have been a lot of people coming from the camps into Bhutan, telling the southern Bhutanese that they will be well looked after and they would be entitled to shelter, food, medical aid and so on. Each person, I think, is entitled to US$3 a day of UNHCR aid. To poor people, this is a lot of money.

These people are also told that if they leave the country, they could come back in a year's time and can dictate terms to the govemment. In other words the international community is going to force Bhutan to kowtow or whatever.

[Inbaraj] Are the southern Bhutanese people of Nepali-origin being forced to assimilate into the Drukpa culture?

[Tsering] In November last year, when I was in Kathmandu, one of the points I raised with the Nepali officials on the instructions of my king, was that the national dress requirement was being removed, and the

southern Bhutanese were free to wear whatever they wanted: The Nepalis were supposed to convey this to the people in the camps.

But don't you think there is a bottom line to citizenship? These people have come to Bhutan and are in fact newcomers who have been given citizenship. Citizenship not only entails people exercising their rights, it also requires them to exercise certain obligations to the country. Don't you think that because of this they should adopt our dress also and learn our [Dzongkha] language?

The tragedy is that all of us speak the Nepali language. I speak Nepali and most of the government offcers also speak it. It is a very widely spoken language.

Now it is sad that the southern Bhutanese cannot speak the national language. Don't you think that two things should be done. Firstly, they should try to wear our clothes at least on formal occasions and learn our language. If they don't do these things, how are they going to call themselves Bhutanese? That word "assimilation" that you have used is rather strong.

That has never been the intention of the Royal Covemment of Bhutan. If you see all our documents, we have used the word integration. The Nepali language has never been banned in Bhutan. In our National Assembly, there are two languages spoken: Dzongkha and Nepali, and there is simultaneous translation even now in the proceedings.

Recently there has been a debate with many of our National Assembly members saying that Nepali should not be used. But finally our king intervened and said we should not dispense with it.

You have to realize that we are a small country and if we don't assert our distinctive identity we will not survive as a nation. We don't have economic strength, we don't have military strength and we are wedged between two of the world's most populous states—China and India. We of course feel threatened.

Even Nepal now is considered a threat to us—which is unfortunate. Because of Nepal's exploding population, we feel that Bhutan is going to be swamped. Whether you agree with me or not, this is our genuine fear.

[Inbaraj] Your government invited the international human rights monitor Amnesty International in early 1992 to visit Bhutan. Can you tell us why?

[Tsering] There has been a barrage of criticism against Bhutan especially in the press in Nepal and allegations have been made that thousands of women have been raped. These are in fact terrible. Our government was in a quandary on how to answer these preposterous claims. We don't have a proper media to project our views and our other problem is that we normally don't allow foreign journalists in the country. I've expressed this dissatisfaction to my government because, through my experience, if foreign journalists are invited into the country their writings on Bhutan, without any exception, become more balanced.

Sad to say, there is still a streak of isolationism among certain people in the government. They used to say that previously we had one journalist a year visiting us and now with three or four a year, that is more than enough.

The other opinion in Thimpu is that who cares? Who cares what anybody writes about us, these people often ask. They say Bhutan has lived in isolation for centuries and if the world starts breathing down our neck we will close our doors again. They maintain that the world has never been good to Bhutan. Foreigners have always tried to subjugate us or exploit us.

But as you know things don't work out that way and we felt that we should give a coherent response to those charges. We then took the unheard step of inviting Amnesty Intemational when most governments in the worid are afraid of them.

[Inbaraj] How many dissidents are still in jail? Why are people like Tek Nath Rizal, the founder of the Bhutan People's Party, whom Amnesty International has adopted as a prisoner of conscience, still being detained?

[Tsering] There are about 180 odd people still being detained, out of whom some have been convicted in a trial. The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) has been given full access to them. They came in November last year on a preliminary visit and in January this year, they came on a full-fledged mission. We told them they could carry out their mandate whenever they chose to exercise it.

One of the main reasons why we invited ICRC to come and work in Bhutan is to show that political detainees and others are not being mistreated physically or psychologically. They interviewed all prisoners, not only political detainees but also common law prisoners. We made it very clear to ICRC that our prison standards are not comparable to Western standards and must be related to local living conditions. The ICRC also held a workshop recently for our security officers on how to treat prisoners.

Tek Nath Rizal was tried in a court at the end of December last year and charges have been filed against him. The hearing is going on and when ICRC visited Bhutan they also had access to him. We have even given permission for his wife to visit him. Our government considers him a threat in its efforts to reconcile with the southern Bhutanese community. He's got a streak to inflame passionate feelings and he's one of the persons who has created this rift within the two communities.

[Inbaraj] How is your country opening up to th outside world?. Can the government stop the winds of democracy fron blowing through the kingdom?

[Tsering] When you talk of democracy, I would say there are two aspects. One is our king, being a very intelligent, well-read and progressive person, is fully aware of the

changes taking place in the world today. We want a peaceful transition into the future and we don't want violent disruptions. The king is very aware of the concepts of democracy and human rights, which are in fact very new to Bhutan. His Highness in fact wants us to keep in step with the changing times.

The second aspect of course with regard to democracy is the concept of the average Bhutanese. If you ask any Bhutanese, he will tell you that our society is very democratic, very open, very tolerant. There are no secret police in the country and neither are there intelligence agencies. There is minimal interference by the state in the private lives of the citizens.

When you talk of democracy in the Western sense, it is not well understood in Bhutan. We consider in our own setting, that our society is being highly democratized. In Bhutan, the monarchy does not govern by the concept of the divine right to rule. It is a contractual monarchy and is very conscious of its responsibilities.

Pakistan

Developments, Reaction to MQM Leader's Murder

Election Boycott Announced

BK0105113693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Karachi, May 1 (AFP)—Unknown assailants shot dead Azim Ahmed Tariq, a founding member of Pakistan's ethnic Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) at his residence here early Saturday, triggering factional tensions, party sources said. His wife, also injured in the attack, was now out of danger, hospital sources said.

Tariq was killed while sleeping in the drawing room of his modest two-storey residence in Dastagir Society in Karachi's central district. Para-military Rangers were immediately deployed in the area to prevent reprisal attacks.

"Due to heat he had left the door open through which the assailants, who could be two or three, came in and fired bursts from automatic weapons," said Haji Shafiq-ur-Rahman, a colleague of Tariq.

"Hearing the gun shots his wife came in and was also fired upon but she is now out of danger," Rahman added.

Asked about the whereabouts of the slain leader's guards, he said "Tariq had no guards, only some workers were sleeping on the roof, but by the time they could do anything the assailants had escaped."

The party said he would be buried late Saturday.

By mid-morning no arrests had been made, but party sources said rival factions were pointing fingers at one another for complicity in the murder.

Tariq was a pioneer of the MQM, made up of Urdu-speaking immigrants who came from India to Pakistan at the time of partition of the subcontinent in 1947, and was powerful in southern Sindh Province. He formed the party in August 1986 with Altaf Hussain, now living in London, and led his own faction of the organization.

Hussain's faction, while condemning the murder as a "dastardly act" announced a boycott of May 5 by-elections for 24 provincial assembly seats.

The seats were vacated by the MQM in protest against an Army-led operation in Karachi during which most of the office bearers were charged with criminal activities.

"We have called Mohajirs to observe a seven day mourning and wear black arm bands because, despite differences, Azim Taiq was a great Mohajir leader," said Ibrahim Rizvi, a spokesman for the Hussain faction. Black flags had already been hoisted in parts of the Liaquatabad area of the central district. Party sources said Tariq, who had gone underground during June Army sweep, had been trying to work out merger between the rival factions before the May 5 by- elections.

The MQM divided into factions after the Army-led operation against bandits and terrorists was extended to this port city of 10 million.

Tariq surfaced on November 18, criticising Hussain amid mounting factional frictions. Last week Tariq had told a news conference that he and Hussain had maintained clandestine contacts with intelligence agencies. He was earlier manhandled in the grounds of a court by a group of people allegedly belonging to Hussain group.

Prime Minister's Condolences

BK0105122493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, has expressed his shock and grief over the death of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] chairman, Mr. Azim Ahmad Tariq, who was shot dead in Karachi early this morning. In a condolence message sent to the family of the deceased, the prime minister observed that such dastardly acts in the body politic of our dear country must condemned in the strongest term by everybody. He said political differences should not take the course of personal enmity and vendetta. He said late Azim Ahmad Tariq professed non-violence in politics and always worked for welfare of the people during his life. He was considered a gentleman in politics. The prime minister called upon all political parties, particularly the MQM factions to keep the [word indistinct] and exercise maximum restraint at this crucial moment. Political forums should be used to resolve the mutual differences.

The Sindh chief minister, Syed Hussain Shah Gilani, talking to newsmen at the residence of late Mr. Azim Ahmad Tariq, said the vacuum created by the death of MQM chairman cannot be filled. He said late Mr. Azim

Ahmad Tariq had extended his cooperation to his government in restoration of peace, law and order, brotherhood, and strengthening of democracy in the province. The chief minister said that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has instructed the provincial government to take all possible measures to apprehend the culprits and award them exemplary punishment.

The MQM coordination committee, while condemning the murder of Mr. Azim Ahmad Tariq, has announced boycott of the Sindh provincial assembly by-elections as a protest. The chairman of the coordination committee, Senator Ishtiaq Azhar, has announced a seven-day mourning by the workers of the MQM.

Security Tightened in Karachi

BK0205030893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Security has been tightened in Karachi to prevent any untoward incident in the wake of the assassination of Azim Ahmad Tariq, the chairman of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement. APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] says the Army, Rangers, and the police have intensified patrolling in sensitive areas. Two incidents of indiscriminate shootings have been reported from Dastagir and Nasirabad. Three people were injured in one of the incidents.

APC Demands Dissolution of Provincial Assemblies

BK3004162493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] An all-party conference [APC] held in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of Pakistan Democratic Party [PDP] leader Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan demanded an immediate dissolution of the four provincial assemblies. It demanded setting up national consensus governments in lieu of the current provincial governments to pave the way for holding free, fair, and impartial general elections. The APC also demanded setting up what it called an independent, noncontroversial, and impartial election machinery, including the appointment of a new Election Commission and its secretary. The conference said the Armed Forces should not only supervise the elections, but they should conduct them as well. Later, in a press briefing Abdul Hafeez Pirzada said the conference made a strong plea for holding the elections within the time limit provided by the Constitution.

Those participating in the conference included Co-chairperson of Pakistan People's Party Benazir Bhutto; Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kusoori, secretary general of Tehrik-i-Istiqlal; Malik Mohammad Qasim, president of the Muslim League—Qasim group; Mohammad Afzal Khan, leader of the Pashtunkhwa Qaumi Party; Allama Sadiq Naqvi of the Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Fiqah-i-Jafria; Miraj Mohammad Khan of the Awami Jamhuri Party; Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi of the National People's Party; Ghulam Mustafa Khar and Maulana Qausar Niazi, leaders of the National People's Party—Khar group; Senator Fayyaz Jatoi of the Pakistan National Party; Maulana Tahirul Qadri of the Pakistan Awami Tehrik; Senator Mansoor Gichki of the Jamhuri Watan Party; Retired Lieutenant General K.M. Azhar of Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan; and Maulana Mohammad Khan Shirani of Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam—Fazlur Rahman group. Independents Murtaza Poya and Majid Malik attended the APC as special invitees.

[AFP, in an Islamabad datelined item, at 1510 GMT adds the following: A statement issued after the day-long deliberations said experience had "amply shown that the local government machinery has been ruthlessly used in massive rigging" of elections.

"The conference, therefore, demands that the elections be conducted and not just supervised by the Armed Forces of Pakistan," it said.

The three alliances are members of Mazari's coalition, described as the government of national consensus. Mazari has formed a 58- member cabinet, the largest ever and representing almost all major parties. The broad coalition will cut down the chances of vote rigging, according to Mazari.

However, the conference warned that results of any election held in present conditions would be rejected by the people of Pakistan and so "destabilise and threaten the very existence of the political and democratic institutions, with catastrophic consequences for the solidarity and the integrity of the country."

The conference also named a high-level committee comprising several ministers and party heads to convey their demands to the president, its spokesman Abdul Hafiz Pirzada told reporters.]

Mazari on Assemblies' Dissolution, Terrorism

BK0105103393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 1 May 93 p 1,2

[Article by Syed Nadeem on an interview with Prime Minister Mazari with THE NATION on 30 April; place not given—all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Islamabad—Prime Minister Balakh Sher Mazari has said that Pakistan abhors all kind of terrorism and is against anybody from any country trying to use its territory as a base for undesireable activities.

The Prime Minister said this while giving an interview to THE NATION on Friday. Asked whether his meeting with U.S. Ambassador John C. Monjo the other day had worked in clarifying Pakistan's position, he said: "Yes, it has helped a lot. I have told him that Pakistan does not want anybody staying here without any proper authority and using it as a base."

To another question that what exactly are the steps which his government has taken or intends to take since

coming into office in this regard, the Prime Minister said: "The step which we are trying to take first of all is that all those persons who are staying in Pakistan without any legal documents should be thrown out. Secondly, all those who came to Pakistan from different Arab and other countries to take part in Afghan Jihad, their aspirations have now come true, Afghanistan is now independent. Therefore, there is no justification for them to stay here.

"If they are interested to do some work for Afghanistan, they should go and do it inside that country. They will not be allowed to remain in Pakistan and use it as a base. Either they can shift to Afghanistan or go back to their own respective countries. It should be clear to everybody that Pakistan just does not want them here because we have got our own problems and difficulties to deal with."

When asked would his government be asking Benazir Bhutto to play any role in this during her forthcoming visit to the United States, be said that Ms Bhutto has been a prime minister herself and she is aware of the situation very well.

The following is rest of the interview in question-answer form:

Q: Do you think that the provincial assemblies should be dissolved?

A: President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and myself are of the opinion that the provincial assemblies are functioning properly and there is no constitutional lapse on their part.

I have endorsed the President's views from the very beginning that the provincial assemblies are working alright. If there is any constitutional problem and they do not function according to the Constitution or if the President feels that it is in the interest of that province, then of course something can be done about it. So far, the President and myself feel that there is nothing wrong with the provincial assemblies. But if tomorrow morning, they start doing something else, then action can be taken."

Q: Have you been able to convince the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] on this point?

A: The PPP leadership had asked him once or twice about it. "I have told them that the best judge of the situation is the President and it would be better if they contacted him on this issue. Following this, the PPP leaders went along and met the President on Thursday."

Q: How would you deal with the situation if the PPP takes a hardened stand on the dissolution issue and decides to quit the caretaker government?

A: I will come to that question when it arises. But at the moment there is no possibility of such happening. We are cooperating and our cooperation is for holding free and fair elections which is our top priority. For the good of the country and the nation, I don't think the PPP would leave us. On the contrary, we are looking for their greater cooperation and guidance, so that the country may have impartial elections. However, we have been on different sides so if anyone expects us to be 100 percent in agreement on all issues, that is not possible."

Q: What if the Supreme Court restores the National Assembly? What about the post-restoration scenario?

A: "We will have to accept the decision of the court. But we will cross the bridge when we come to it."

Q: Do you foresee any chance of extension in the election date of July 14?

A: "Some people have brought it to my notice that the holy month of Moharram and the hot weather would be a problem in electioneering. Some [word indistinct] have met me and said that Hajj is also nearing. So many voters would be performing Hajj. Several candidates and their supporters would also be proceeding for Hajj. Therefore, the election date should be delayed. I have told them that the President has fixed the date for elections as July 14 and as far as the caretaker government is concerned, it is going to go ahead with it. However, if the public, the coalition partners, the press, and everybody else show a desire for the postponement of elections, they should approach the President for this. This is something which is between the President and the public to decide about it."

Q: Why do you need such a large cabinet to run a caretaker set up

A: "I honestly feel that it is not a very big cabinet considering that we had to form a national government and that there are about 60 odd registered political parties in the country. I don't think that any other government has had this support and backing of 60 many political parties.

"Secondly, I have tried to bring people from more or less every political party. Some people say that rigging took place during the last elections. It is between them and the riggers. But now when so many people are together in the same boat, no one would be able to do something wrong behind one another's back. All these parties will be in a position to supervise, to complain and to see that the elctoral process is honest and impartial.

"The previous government consisted of just two or three parties in the end. And even then. There were federal ministers, ministers of state adviser, parliamentary secretaries and others whose number was more tharn 70. So looking from this point of view, the cabinet is not so big."

Q: Would the caretaker set-up initiate the accountability of previous rulers itself or leave it to the next elected government?

A: "There already exists an Accountability Cell which is looking after this subject. If anything in the meaning comes up or is brought to my notice, we would certainly take an action. As far as I am concerned, accountability

is a must and if necessary it can be started before the elected government takes over.

"But at the same time, the thing is that our main job is to ensure fair elections. If we immediately start opening cases like cooperatives, taxis and the Motorway, then people would say that we are not sincere in holding elections. Besides we are not for witch- hunting like the previous governments used to do. We don't want to indulge in putting surveillance on people and determine who is up to what. We are mainly interested in giving the country a fair electoral process. When the next government comes. it will have plenty of time to look into and take to task whoever has done any wrong."

Q: Would you want to continue Nawaz Sharif government's economic policies?

A: We have no objection in some of their policies: But there was no transparency in them. I will give just one example of privatisation. There has been so much hue and cry the way it was being implemented. Deals were struck behind the back or under the table.

"As far as my government is concerned, any project which we action [as published], it will be clean and I will not stand anybody's pressure. I will stress that there is so much to do regarding the privatisation because a number of things were not transparently done. But I don't want to make it an excuse to go into it forthwith because we will not be able to utilise all our strength and resources for holding elections."

Q: If there is any proposal to elect you as the new president of the Pakistan Muslim League [PML], would you accept it.?

A: "I think I have already got too many things on my mind being the Prime MInister. I can only do one work properly at a time and not two. One who could be more useful and devote maximum time to the party, should be elected as the new party chief. It would be good if they (Muslim Leagues) could amalgamate all Leagues. Besides they should try to elect somebody who has dynamic background and personality and is accepted and known throughout Pakistan. It would be good not only for the Muslim League but also for the country if all factions of the PML are united."

Committee To Investigate Former Regime

BK0205151893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] As a first step to overcome unemployment, the federal cabinet has decided to lift the ban on recruitment with immediate effect. The federal cabinet met in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari. Federal ministers, ministers of state, advisers, and special assistants attended the meeting. The cabinet decided that jobs will be provided purely on the basis of merit and in accordance with rules and regulations. Provision of jobs would not be for achieving any political gain. The cabinet examined the cooperatives scandal and decided that necessary steps would be taken in this behalf, especially with regard to expeditious payment to the depositors. Similarly, all-out efforts would be made for provision of justice to the affectees of Taj Company.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said the real objective of the caretaker national government is to hold free, fair, and impartial elections on schedule and transfer power to the elected government. The caretaker government would not involve itself in complicated issues or basic policies. The prime minister directed that all ministers should declare their assets within a fortnight so that accountability could be made when they relinquish office.

The cabinet formed a three-member committee for the accountability of the former regime. The committee, headed by the federal labor minister, Mian Zahid Sarfraz, would include the commerce minister, Mr. Ehsanul Haq Piracha, and Mr. Roedad Khan, adviser to the prime minister. The committee may coopt any other member. The committee would conclude its work within the current month, and it would be presented before the nation through the press.

After the cabinet meeting, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Maulana Kausar Niazi, briefed newsmen about the decisions of the cabinet. He said accountability would not be just for the sake of propaganda. He said cases would be framed and sent to the court, and the nation would be taken into confidence. The minister made it clear that accountability would not be allowed to become an obstacle in the election process. There will be no victimization, and no one will be debarred from taking part in the election.

The cabinet adopted a condolence resolution moved by Foreign Minister Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, expressing a deep sense of shock at the tragic assassination of President Premadasa, of Sri Lanka. The cabinet condemned this act of terrorism and described Mr. Premadasa as a true friend of Pakistan and a great statesman. The cabinet also condoled the assassination of Mr. Azim Ahmad Tariq [Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader]. The prime minister said he has directed the Sindh government to investigate the case as quickly as possible and bring the culprits to book.

Afghan To Mediate European Diplomats' Release

BK0105095493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, May 1 (AFP)—A leader of the Afghan faction Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] left here for his country Saturday, saying he would try to secure the release of three European diplomats being held hostage inside Afghanistan.

Syed Agha Jilal was headed by road for the border town of Spin Boldak, where Mohammad Nabi Nurzai, a local commander from Afghan Premier-Designate Golboddin Hekmatyar's party, is reported to be holding the diplomats.

Jack Dodds of Britain, Gert Piening of The Netherlands and Stephen Elhert of Germany, all drug liaison officers, were taken at gunpoint when they crossed into Afghanistan from Pakistan's Balochistan province April 23.

Nurzai is said to be demanding the release of two fellow tribesmen arrested recently by the Pakistani militia on gun-running charges.

"We have received instructions from Hekmatyar to ensure the unconditional release of the diplomats," Jilal said before his departure for Spin Boldak, located some 100 kilometers (62 miles) north of here.

Jilal said he went to Spin Boldak from Quetta on Tuesday and met with the diplomats before returning here. "All three were safe and healthy and living in a mud house," he said.

"I took along with me fruit, bread and clothes for the diplomats," said Jilal, who is the Hezb's main commander for the district of Spin Boldak. "I am going back to the town and hope to bring the affair to a happy end." But he declined to say if he was carrying any assurances.

Earlier, officials here indicated that two tribesmen whose release had been demanded by Nurzai could be freed provided he first let the diplomats return to Pakistan.

The diplomats went to Quetta for official business but their unexplained trip into Afghanistan was made without notification. Officials here said they used secret routes.

No confirmation was available about reports that officials had received a letter from the Western diplomats.

A number of negotiating teams from the Pakistani side visited Spin Boldak earlier in the week to help secure the diplomats' release.

Meanwhile, senior Afghan Foreign Ministry official Hamid Karzai arrived here after attending the Organization of the Islamic Conference meeting in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi.

The Afghan diplomatic mission here made no comment on the purpose of his visit, but it was believed to be linked to efforts aimed at ending the kidnap episode.

President, Mazari React to Sri Lankan Assassination

BK0105144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] The president of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, was assassinated in a bomb blast while he was leading a ruling party May Day procession in Colombo today. Mr. Premadasa's personal bodyguards were among at least 30 people killed in the blast that occurred at Armour Street junction in Colombo's commercial area. At least 60 people are reported to have been injured. Eye witnesses and police said they thought the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber, but there was no confirmation. An indefinite curfew has been imposed throughout the country and air force helicopters circled over the capital where the situation is reported tense. Military sources in Colombo say they plan to deploy troops in the capital. Sri Lanka's Security Council went into an emergency session to discuss the situation and the radio has appealed to the people to return to their homes rather than attend May Day rallies.

Mr. Premadasa was 69 and he was elected Sri Lanka's president in 1989. Before taking over as President, he was prime minister of the country. An AFP report says Sri Lanka's prime minister, Mr. Wijetunge, has been sworn in as caretaker president till elections.

The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, have expressed shock and horror at the assassination of president Premadasa who was a great statesman, an outstanding leader of the people, and a friend of Pakistan. They have condemned the dastardly act of terrorism and expressed their sympathy, support, and solidarity for the friendly people of Sri Lanka. They have also sent their heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Sri Lanka and to the bereaved family of the late president whose services would be long remembered.

Sri Lanka

President, 'Entire Staff' Killed by Bomb

Curfew Imposed

BK0105095293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 1 (AFP)—Sri Lanka President Ranasinghe Premadasa was blown up in a bomb attack in the capital Colombo as he led a ruling party May Day procession, his press secretary Evans Cooray told AFP.

"The president's entire staff is dead. He is no more. I was about 10 yards from the president when the bomb went off. It was one hell of a blast," Cooray said.

He said an island wide curfew was being declared.

Wijetunge Sworn In

BK0105112193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 1 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's prime minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunge was sworn in as acting head of state following the assassination Saturday of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, officials here said.

Wijetunge was sworn-in by the chief justice to take control of the country before elections could be held in line with the Constitution.

LTTE Denies Involvement

BK0105111893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 1 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group denied involvement in the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa in a bomb attack in Colombo Saturday.

"We deny categorically LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) involvement in the assassination," spokesman Lawrence Thilagar told AFP by telephone from the LTTE's office in Paris.

He said Premadasa might have been killed by supporters of opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali, who was shot dead by an unidentified gunman at an election rally in Colombo April 23.

"There is an apparent motive behind (Premadasa's assassination) because of the assassination of Athulathmudali," Thilagar said. "The possibility of revenge killing (is there). Athulathmudali's friends might have done it."

The LTTE is waging a bloody campaign to set up an independent homeland in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority northeast.

Thilagar said the new Sri Lankan leadership would need to make a fresh initiative to end the ethnic conflict in the island nation which has claimed thousands of lives.

"There must be a new initiative about the Tamil problem," he said. "Premadasa was not successful in this when he was the president."

Curfew 'Until Further Notice'

BK0105131093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Tamil 1230 GMT 1 May 93

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Ranasinghe Premadasa was elected as a member of parliament from the Colombo Central constitutency in the 1977 general elections. His Excellency President Ransinghe Premadasa was assassinated as he was participating in a May Day rally organized by the United National Party [UNP] along Armour Street in Colombo today. The assassin is believed to have committed the act with explosives strapped to his body. The Presidential Secretariat announces that the incident took place at 1245 [0715 GMT] this afternoon. [passage omitted]

According to the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge has taken over as acting president. D.B. Wijetunge was sworn in by Justice A.P.S.K. Shanmugam, at the Presidential Secretariat this afternoon. The government has announced that the country-wide curfew will be in force until further notice.

Troops Deployed

BK0105155193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1521 GMT 1 May 93

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 1 (AFP)—A suspected suicide bomber assassinated Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa here Saturday, and his prime minister took over with an announcement that the Cabinet would assume executive powers. Dingiri Banda Wijetunge, widely seen here as a political lightweight, was sworn in as acting president and went into emergency session with the Cabinet. It was the second political assassination in Sri Lanka in eight days, following the April 23 shooting of opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali, Premadasa's main political rival. Some opposition supporters took to the streets, defying a curfew to celebrate the news that Premadasa had been killed instantly with at least 17 others, including his personal bodyguards, a valet and a senior police superintendent, police said. They said 58 people were admitted to hospital with serious injuries. [passage omitted]

Police said the bomb was set off by a man who had apparently strapped explosives onto his body and rammed his cycle onto Premadasa's entourage, police said. Witnesses said Premadasa had to be identified by his ring and wristwatch. "It is believed that the assassin was a suicide bomber," the Presidential Secretariat said in a statement.

Sri Lanka's dominant Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have carried out suicide bombings, but the LTTE office in Paris told AFP's New Delhi Bureau that they were not involved in the Premadasa attack and in turn suggested the opposition was responsible. LTTE spokesman Lawrence Thilagar said Athulathmudali's backers may have carried out the attack against Premadasa to avenge their leader's death. Athulathmudali's party had blamed Premadasa for the killing. There was no opposition reaction to Premadasa's slaying, but opposition supporters set off firecrackers in Colombo's suburbs to celebrate it, residents said. Amid rising tension, hundreds of heavily armed troops came out to prevent rioting and air force helicopters kept up reconnaisance flights over the city, where seven May Day rallies had been scheduled. Party activists left the capital in small groups after abandoning their May Day rallies as the indefinite night curfew was announced. Wijetunge, 71, who was also deputy to Premadasa as state minister for defence, was sworn in as acting president by Chief Justice G.P.S. de Silva. His replacement was not immediately announced. Wijetunge could hold office for one month, after which parliament will have to elect one of its members as the new head of state until December 1994, the balance of the term won by Premadasa. Previously, only the president has held executive powers. [passage omitted]

Acting President's Statement

BK0105161193 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1515 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] In a statement issued to the nation, the acting president, D.B. Wijetunge, points out that in the contemporary history of Sri Lanka, no leader has rendered greater service to the people than President Ranasinghe Premadasa. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the poor after the alleviation of poverty. His clear concept was economic stability and prosperity. He braved all odds to restore democracy and bring harmony and understanding among all sections of the people. Mr. D.B. Wijetunge felt that the country mourns the loss of one of its noblest sons. He appealed to all [word indistinct] countrymen to live in calm and act with restraint. He added that the late leader stood (?firmly) for the maintenance of discipline and diginity. The greatest tribute one can, therefore, pay to his revered memory is to maintain law and order and assure the continuity of his political programs, which alone can give the people economic and political equality. The acting president has requested the three service commanders and inspector generals of police to take all necessary measures to maintain law and order. He assured the country that the government will take every action to identify those responsible for this dastardly crime and to bring them to justice.

Cabinet Holds Emergency Session

BK0105162493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1515 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers met in an emergency session this afternoon and reviewed the situation in the aftermath of the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa. The state funeral of the late president will take place at Independence Square in Colombo on Thursday 6 May. Details will be announced shortly. The Cabinet, by passing a vote of condolence, expressed shock and sorrow over the gruesome killing. The cabinet decided to declare the period from today until the conclusion of the state funeral as the period of national mourning. The state funeral will [words indistinct] full military honors will be accorded. President Ranasinghe Premadasa was both president and commander in chief of the armed services. The full Cabinet will function as the committee to guide the affairs of the state in this hour of grave national crisis and to decide on the funeral arrangements. A special cabinet subcommittee under the chairmanships of the acting president, D.B. Wijetunge, and consisting of ministers A.C.S. Hameed, Ranil Wickremasinghe, Festus Perera, Sirisena Cooray, and Weeratunge Manimarachchi was appointed to make funeral arrangements as directed by the cabinet of ministers.

'Maximum' Security Alert Imposed

BK0105160293 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1530 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 1 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa was assassinated Saturday 12 noon by a suicide bomber as he was walking in the UNP [United National Party] May Day procession at Armour Street in Colombo-13, police told LANKAPUVATH. Mr. Premadasa was 68-year-old. President Premadasa's funeral will be held next Thursday.

Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunga has been sworn in by the chief justice as acting president of Sri Lanka.

Police sources said that suicide bomber who had explosives strapped to his body grabbed at the president as he set off the explosives. President Premadasa who was greivously wounded was rushed for emergency surgery to the general hospital Colombo where he succumbed to his injuries.

Among the others dead were Senior Superintendent of Police Ronnie Gunasinghe in charge of Colombo Central Division and aide of President Premadasa, an Assistant Superintendent of Police and six police special task force commandos. 30 people were also injured.

The UNP May Day procession was wending its way from the Sugathadasa stadium to Galleface Green when tragedy occurred around 12 noon.

An island-wide curfew has been declared with effect from 1600 hours (local time) Saturday until further notice. It will be lifted at 0600 hours (local time) Sunday.

Soon after president's assassination maximum security Operation Thunderbolt came into effect in Colombo while security throughout the country was placed at maximum.

Police said six more suicide bombers suspected to be from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] were in Colombo to take on Very Important Pdr and other important targets. On Thursday following intelligence reports that two white Toyota Carina cars loaded with explosives had entered the city and had made army headquarters their first car bomb target. That morning security in and around the army headquarters was heightened.

Earlier about two weeks ago, intelligence reports were received that LTTE had several hit squads in the city and they had targetted VIPs.

Former minister of national security and Democratic United National Front leader Lalith Athulathmudali was assassinated by an unidentified gunman when he was addressing a provincial council election rally at Kirulapone in Colombo, last Friday night.

President Premadasa who had a political career spanning 44 years was elected to office in December 1989, at

a time when the country was paralysed as a result of fear psychosis caused by a Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] insurgency.

Mr. Premadasa, however, with Ranjan Wijeratne as his minister of state for defence began restoring the situation to normal and a general election was held in March 1990.

With the elimination of JVP leadership in November 1990, Mr. Premadasa set Sri Lanka on a road to rapid economic recovery.

At the time of his death, Sri Lanka had the highest economic growth rate, the highest per capita income and the highest literacy rate in South Asia.

There has been heavy foreign investment in Sri Lanka and President Premadasa's 200 garment factory's programme has generated large scale employment in the rural areas and also earned valuable foreign exchange.

According to international economic experts, Sri Lanka is set to achieve newly industrilised country status by the year 2000 as a result of President Premadasa's efforts.

Sri Lanka's foreign exchange reserves which could only pay for one months essential imports when Mr. Premadasa took office as president, has now grown beyond all expectations and the country's foreign exchange situation is solid.

President Premadasa who identified himself with the common man and in particular the poor rural masses introduced the Janasaviya poverty alleviation programme on assuming office and at the time of his death, several hundred thousands of poor people were receiving Janasaviya benefits.

Mr. Premadasa also introduced the divisional secretariat system which decentralized the public administration in keeping with his policy of grassroots up policy.

He involved the rural masses in the country's development programmes by launching his successful one million and 1.5 million houses programme and in his four years of office as president, he set up an impressive national infrastructure, improving roads, railways, electricty, housing, especially the shelter for all and village reawakening programmes, the setting up of university colleges countrywide giving free meals and uniforms to the counry's four million school children and a host of other development programmes. But most of all President Ranasinghe Premadasa was a man of the people, for the people who led a simple, home spun life with Gandhian ideals as his guide.

A devote Buddhist, Mr. Premadasa was a vegetarian.

It is acknowledged that President Premadasa's tenure of office as chairman of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], was the most dynamic and fruitful period in the history of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation.-

Some of his achievements as leader of SAARC is the setting up of the independent South Asian Poverty Alleviation Commission, SAPTA, the South Asian Development Fund and forging closer ties among the people of the South Asian region.

He leaves behind his wife Madam Hema Premadasa son Sajith and daughter Dulanjal.

Assassin Identified as LTTE Member

BK0305124893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1204 GMT 3 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 May (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa's assassin has been identified as a suspected LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist in a boarding house close to Sucharita, the private residence of the president, at Kehelwatte in Colombo Central, police told LANKAPUVATH.

They said that the owner of the boarding house had reportedly identified the photograph which was published in the Monday morning national newspapers and Sunday night on the national television network, Rupavahini.

They said that his name is known to the police.

He had been living in this boarding house for about two years and working for its chief occupant, a small hotel owner.

President Premadasa was killed just after noon Saturday by an LTTE suicide bomber, who rode up to the president on a bicycle and exploded the bombs as he was stopped by presidential security guards at Armour Street in Colombo, five feet from where president Premadasa was standing.

Twenty-four persons, including senior superintendent of police Ronnie Gunasinghe, police special task force commandos and the president's valet, Mohideen were killed in the explosion.

Police also said that a number of suspected LTTE hit squad members have been arrested and they were close to identifying the body of the suspected LTTE gunman who shot dead DUNF [Democratic United National Front] leader Lalith Athulathmudali last Friday.

Loss of President Mourned

BK0305060493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0539 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 3 (AFP)—Sri Lanka was in mourning Monday for assassinated President Ranasinghe Premadasa with the nation's troops and police on

maximum alert amid fears that more suicide bombers may have infiltrated the capital.

State institutions were ordered to fly the national Lion flag at half staff and put up white flags as a sign of respect for Premadasa blown up Saturday by a suspected Tamil Tiger guerrilla suicide bomber at a May Day rally here.

"There have been reports that the LTTE (the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) has infiltrated the city to carry out more suicide missions. So we are on maximum alert," a senior police officer told reporters Sunday.

Thousands of men and women queued outside Premadasa's Colombo residence Monday to pay their respects as elite commandos, backed by soldiers and police, maintained tight security throughout the city and suburbs, a police official said.

Premadasa, who was commander in chief of the armed forces, will be given a state funeral with full military honours on Thursday.

Several private schools remained closed while attendance in government colleges and offices dropped sharply. Colombo's tiny stock exchange, however, was scheduled to begin trading on this first working day since the assassination, a stock market spokesman said.

Police Sunday formally accused the LTTE, Sri Lanka's most powerful Tamil separatist group, of assassinating Premadasa and said they found the severed head of the suspected suicide bomber with a trace of cyanide on the neck. The blast also claimed another 23 lives, including all Premadasa's bodyguards.

The LTTE were the prime suspects in the May 1991 assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi in a similar suicide attack carried out by a suspected woman cadre of the rebel group.

Reports from outside Colombo said white flags were being flown in many places after bursts of fire crackers by opposition supporters celebrating the death of Premadasa who became president after a bloody election in December 1988.

More than 6,000 activists of Premadasa's United National Party were killed by anti-government Sinhalese militants and several thousand others were killed by suspected pro-government vigilante groups in the run-up to the 1988 polls.

Parliament To Meet 4 May To Elect New President

BK0205110493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] Parliament will meet at 0900 [0330 GMT] on 4 May following the passing away of President Ranasinghe Premadasa. The secretary general of Parliament has informed all members of Parliament of the date and time fixed for the meeting in accordance with Section Five of the Presidential Election Special Provision Act Number Two of 1981.

Parliament will elect by secret ballot the person most suitable from among the MPs [members of Parliament] to hold the office of president. According to the Presidential Secretariat, the person elected by Parliament, in accordance with the constitutional provision, will hold office until the end of term of the current presidency in 1994.

UNP Nominates Wijetunge

BK0205154593 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1515 GMT 2 May 93

[Text] The United National Party [UNP] has decided on the name of the acting president, D.B. Wijetunge, as its nominee for the remainder of the term of presidency which fell vacant due to the assassination of President Ranatunge Premadasa. The decision was unanimously taken at a joint meeting of the Working Committee of the UNP and the government parliamentary group today. The meeting was presided over by the UNP chairman, Dr. M.C.M. Kaleel. Mr. Wijetunge's name was proposed by the party's general minister, Minister of Housing and Construction Sirisena Cooray. Minister of Justice A.C. S. Hameed seconded the proposal.

The acting president thanked the Working Committee and the Parliamentary Group for the trust and confidence placed in him. He said that he accepted their offer with humility at this time of crisis. The acting president pledged to continue the policies and programs of the late president. He said the late Mr. Premadasa had already put the country on the path of progress and opened new opportunities for the people.

The joint committee meeting was held in keeping with the provisions in the constitution of the UNP. The party's constitution provides for a joint meeting of the Working Committee and the parliamentary group to decide on the party nominee for president in the event of (?the president's) post falling vacant. The joint committee meeting was held at the Presidential Secretariat. Dr. Kaleel explained the purpose of the joint meeting. He described the demise of President Ranatunge Premadasa as an unbearable sorrow to all.

Army Raids Thoppigala, 15 LTTE Killed

BK0305052193 Hong Kong AFP in English 0513 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 3 (AFP)—At least 15 Tamil guerrillas and four soldiers were killed in fresh fighting in northeastern Sri Lanka following the assassination here of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, the military said Monday.

Army Special Forces commandos raided a suspected hideout of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

in the Thoppigala jungles Sunday, killed six militants, and captured their weapons, a military spokesman said.

He said the offensive was launched a day after LTTE gunmen overran a military outpost in the Pamburugaswewa region in the northeast, killing four soldiers and removing automatic assault rifles from the victims.

Troops retaliated and killed nine guerrillas, including two men holding the rank of LTTE captain, the spokesman said.

It was the first report of renewed violence in the island's northeast since Saturday's slaying of Premadasa carried out by a suspected LTTE suicide bomber in the capital Colombo.

Troops have withdrawn at least 1,000 combatants from the northeastern battle front to reinforce police in Colombo and its suburbs amid fears of a backlash to Premadasa's assassination.

The Tigers are waging a violent campaign to establish an independent homeland in the northern and eastern regions where the Tamil minority population of about two million is concentrated.

Thousands have died in the bitter fighting.

Troops Kill 6 'Terrorists' in Batticaloa

BK0305103493 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0851 GMT 3 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 May (LANKAPUVATH)—Six LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed by troops at Pankudaveli in Eastern Batticaloa District, [words indistinct]

The Joint Operations Command (JOC) told LANKAPUVATH that troops in ambush killed six terrorists and recovered five grenades and five cyanide capsules.

There were no casualties reported from security forces.